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**Seeing red**  
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Magazine



**Director's cut**  
David Puttnam on the wayward genius of David Lean  
Weekend



# THE INDEPENDENT

No 2,984

11 MAY 1996 (IR65p) 50p

## Summit to crack down on abusers

Minister cites campaign by The Independent

REBECCA FOWLER

A Cabinet Minister has called for co-ordinated national action by the Government as part of a drive to stamp out sexual and physical abuse in children's homes.

William Hague, the Secretary of State for Wales, says in a letter sent to the Prime Minister and other Cabinet colleagues, which has been leaked to the *Independent*. "Whenever abuse of children in public care occurs it naturally gives rise to a strong public reaction. As a government we need to be seen to be responding to this appropriately."

Mr Hague is strongly critical of Chwyd County Council for its handling of the child abuse scandal in north Wales in the 1980s, one of the worst seen in Britain, but he adds: "The issue has ceased to be one simply affecting Wales."

"There is talk of a cover-up and this is leading to renewed calls for a public inquiry. As you may have seen, the *Independent* newspaper is running a sustained campaign."

As many as 200 children were abused in homes in North Wales, and seven care workers have been convicted of serious crimes. In recent years, 12 former residents have committed suicide in circumstances related to their experiences.

In the letter, Mr Hague expresses concern over mounting fears that not all the perpetrators of abuse in Chwyd had been put on trial, intensified by the failure of the councils to publish the findings of the inquiry led by John Jillings, former director of social services in Derbyshire.

Mr Hague writes: "There remains a strong feeling of unease

in North Wales that, though as the police investigations appear to have been, by no means all the people responsible for the abuse were successfully brought to justice."

He attributes the "mis-handling" of the Chwyd inquiry - and the failure to publish the Jillings report - to the County Council, which was caught in a stranglehold by its insurance company. The Municipal Mutual insisted the publication of the investigation would be a "dress rehearsal" for claimants pursuing legal action against the local authority, following their traumatic experiences in homes.

Among the issues Mr Hague highlights is "the extent to which the likely loss of insurance cover and the risk of surcharge should oblige local authorities in these circumstances to heed their insurers' wishes."

Despite a series of scandals involving children's homes across Britain, the Government has consistently failed to respond to recommendations for change, including setting up a paedophile register, improved training for workers and better inspection of homes - and a general council to oversee the profession.

Mr Hague says in the letter, also sent to the Lord Chancellor and Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, that Whitehall officials from all the relevant departments should meet urgently to discuss the issues, including more effective vetting and safeguards.

Mr Hague has ordered the councils in Wales who have taken over from the now defunct Chwyd to edit the report to ensure that it can be published without fear of libel or repercussions from the insurance company.

## Dustin Hoffman blames Hollywood over Dunblane



Face the press: Dustin Hoffman in Cannes yesterday. Commerce is 'mixed with violence' in a way he had not seen before. Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

Oscar winner Dustin Hoffman yesterday chose the Cannes Film Festival to attack cinema's falling standards on movie violence.

The actor, whose career has spanned more than 30 years, said that in Hollywood today commerce is "mixed with violence" in a way that he had never seen before.

And referring to the recent mass murders in Dunblane, Scotland, and in Tasmania, Hoffman said: "Look at this global community we live in and what happens in Tasmania and what happens in Scotland. Are you saying it [film violence] doesn't have anything to do with it?"

"Do I feel that it contributes?

Absolutely. I feel it all contributes. I had a discussion with a friend of mine the other night. I don't know whether you have heard about this in Europe but there were two kids, six and eight years old, who attacked a baby in Chicago.

"Our feeling about it was that this was kind of normal behaviour and that the human being is at best the lowest of savages. We are born savages and if you have little kids like I do you have to tell them 'What are you doing? You can't put your fingers in your brother's eyes like that, how would you like someone to do it to you?'"

"But now there is a total absence of that kind of training

and the opposite is even in effect. If those kids are seeing violence in front of them or seeing an older person doing that kind of thing they are going to do the same thing."

Hoffman, the star of numerous films including the violent *Snow Dogs* and *Marathon Man*, said he rejected scripts that featured gratuitous violence.

"I personally affect my own decisions. I look at a script and if it has what I think is gratuitous violence I won't do it. I haven't taken any steroids lately so it's not a difficult decision to make."

The actor, who won his two Oscars for *Kramer vs Kramer* and *Rain Man*, said that he attend-

ed a Hollywood fundraising dinner a year ago when President Bill Clinton criticised the level of violence in films.

"All of us so-called heavyweights were there, the stars, the directors and the studio heads. We all stood around watching Clinton and I thought he was quite brave because he came into Hollywood and he was saying cut down on the violence."

"He said: 'You know when I see violence, or when you see violence or your kids see violence, they have mothers and they have fathers and you have three things: you have work, you have family and a certain financial security.'"

"But he said that there were many people, and kids who are impressionable, who don't have any of the above and he said they are being affected differently by that kind of stuff on the screen. He said 'to you guys it's just entertainment' but I think it's hitting another level to a lot of these other kids."

"I could see everybody applauding but I knew it was going to be business as usual as soon as Clinton had gone and everyone was going to go right back and make the same kind of movies."

"It's part of the whole thing. Commerce is mixed with violence now in a way that I am unaware of in my lifetime."

## World's cupboards bare as crop fails

NICHOLAS SCHOON

Unnoticed by Western consumers, the world is passing through its worst period of grain scarcity since the early 1970s. Prices of internationally-traded wheat have doubled in one year, grain mountains have vanished and stocks are low.

Hopes that the world food crisis might ease were dashed yesterday after the US announced that America's winter wheat harvest this summer would be the worst in almost two decades.

Yesterday's official forecast of the lowest US harvest in 18 years means the risk of worsening hunger, hardship and turmoil in grain-importing poor countries will stay high for at least another year.

The harvest, which begins in Texas this month, is the largest of any region in the world. The US is also the world's biggest wheat exporter and winter-sown varieties account for 60 per cent of the crop.

Drought last autumn, late frosts and high winds meant an even more disappointing crop than last year's poor one, said the Department of Agriculture. As stocks dwindled, the main index price of US wheat has doubled over the past year, rising to a peak of £195 a tonne at the end of last month.

"After this disappointing harvest they're not likely to come down," said Richard Woodham, of the London-based International Grains Council.

Powerful trends have combined to slash the vast grain

exports to the developing world from developed countries, chiefly the US, Canada, the European Union and Australia, after years of crop surpluses.

Cash support to farmers has been cut to curb the grain mountains, because of the high cost to taxpayers and consumers. But developing countries, especially China, have needed to import more, because of population growth and prosperity. A succession of poor harvests was the final factor in turning abundance into scarcity.

There are 82 poor nations, half of them in Africa, which import more food than they export. High prices, which flow from the bad US harvest, will hit them hard.

Spectre of drought, page 8

## Heads plan tests boycott

JUDITH JUDD

Education Editor

Head teachers are threatening to block the publication of primary school league tables by refusing to release national test results for 11-year-olds.

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) is expected to announce next week that it is advising heads to withhold test results.

Their action will alarm ministers who faced a storm two years ago when teacher unions boycotted national tests. By law, heads are obliged to send test papers to external markers who are under contract to send the results to the Government.

Governments are required also by law to submit results and heads have a legal duty to make

results available to governors. Heads say tables will be misleading because they do not take account of pupils' social backgrounds, or differing abilities.

They are angry that Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, who said originally that primary league tables would not be published until the tests had bedded down, changed her mind earlier this year. The results of this year's 11-year-old tests which begin on Monday will be published next March.

A spokesman for the Department of Education and Employment said secondary-school performance tables were established and well-used by parents, and the time was right for parents to compare primary schools' performance.

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Weekend



Willie Nelson, the country music outlaw riding high at 63

Anna Pavord on how to transform your back yard



The Eurovision Song Contest: it's no joke for Norway

Magazine Charles Nevin takes on the man who has never lost an argument

Simon Hopkinson on seriously underrated English dressings

IN BRIEF

**Bupa pulls out**  
Bupa, Britain's biggest health insurer, with 550,000 subscribers, has decided not to use private beds in NHS hospitals. Page 3

**Today's weather**  
Bright after a foggy start, with a scattering of showers. Page 2



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**IN BRIEF**

**Murder squad in hunt for gunman**

Murder squad detectives are hunting a 31-year-old man who fled after allegedly threatening them with a shotgun. South Wales police said David Alfred Willway may be armed.

They were investigating the murder of Helen Martin, 18, whose battered body was found at the Symond's Yat beauty spot in Herefordshire on Wednesday, four days after she was last seen at a Maesteg pub.

Detectives who watched a security video showing Helen leave the pub disco said yesterday they had traced a 30-year-old local man who dropped her near her home.

**Rover cars recalled**

Rover is recalling more than 20,000 cars with a steering problem. Some M and N-registration Rover 600s have suffered loose mounting bolts on the steering rack. Rover has written to all affected owners asking them to contact their dealer to have free checks done.

**Blaze death charge**

A security guard was sent for trial accused of killing firefighter Fleur Lombard, 21, who died in a supermarket blaze in Bristol in February. Martin Cody, 20, made no plea at the city's Crown Court to charges of manslaughter and arson with intent to endanger life. Ms Lombard was Britain's first woman firefighter to die on duty.

**Coach crashes**

Nine children were taken to hospital after their coach was involved in a head-on collision with a van in Salford, Manchester. The driver of one of the vehicles was trapped for more than an hour before being freed by firefighters. He was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

**I don't like Fridays**

The showbusiness couple Bob Geldof and Paula Yates have divorced. Mr Geldof, 41, was given an honorary knighthood for setting up the charity Band Aid. Ms Yates, 35, is a television presenter and newspaper columnist. They married in 1986 and have three children - Fifi Trisabelle, 12, Peaches, 6, and four-year-old Pixie.

Scottish Tories conference: Prime Minister targets devolution plans as key election issue

# Major to warn Labour will tear-up Britain

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

John Major is planning to give Conservatives a rallying call to preserve the Union today with a warning that Labour's plans for a Scottish Parliament threaten to "tear apart" Britain.

The Prime Minister's campaigning speech to the Scottish Conservative Party conference in Aberdeen will make constitutional commitment to Scotland a cornerstone of the Tory General Election campaign. Mr Major is expected to claim Labour's devolution plans will endanger the fabric of Britain, and - coupled with Labour's pro-European stance - damage Britain at home and abroad.

The Prime Minister will seek to draw the line under the Tory losses in the local elections, and turn the Conservative fire on Labour over tax, which was looking increasingly vital for the Tories after Kenneth Clarke dumped down hopes of a pre-election tax giveaway in the next

Budget. The Chancellor told the conference: "Let me make one thing clear on tax. Restoring our reputation for competence and regaining the trust of the British people does not involve buying votes through tax cuts that will not last. I have too high a regard for the British people to try and bribe them with tax cuts we can't afford."

Mr Clarke refused to rule out tax cuts, but a rise in borrowing and a £6bn gap in expected VAT receipts has made his room for manoeuvre much smaller.

Instead, Mr Major is planning to focus his conference attack on the threat of Labour tax rises, including the "Barnet tax" for the Scottish Parliament, and the "tenage tax", equivalent to £560 a year, if the Shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, scraps child benefit for 16-18-year-olds as part of Labour's welfare reforms.

He will hold out the prospect of the return of the "feelgood factor" with low inflation and low interest rates being put at

risk by a Labour Government. In a forecast of the Tory election strategy, Mr Major will tell wavering supporters Labour would "throw it all away". That message will be seen as an attempt to neutralise the power of Labour's appeal that it is "time for a change".

The commitment to the Union was reinforced by Cabinet ministers at the Scottish conference, led by Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman. Claiming the Conservatives would be the only party with candidates wedded to maintaining the Union, Dr Mawhinney said: "We are a Unionist party by conviction."

However, Sir David Steel, the former Liberal Democrat leader, last night warned Mr Major he was making a fatal mistake in opposing more devolved powers for Scotland. "It is they who are risking the Union. Without a Scottish Parliament, more people out of frustration may opt for separation," Sir David warned.



Peter Lilley, who yesterday claimed the Tories were the true party of the working class

## Redwood referendum bid rejected by Rifkind

COLIN BROWN

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday threw out a referendum deal being brokered by John Redwood and Sir James Goldsmith to make Goldsmith to withdraw his threat to put up independent candidates against Tories at the general election.

The uncompromising rejection by Mr Rifkind at the Scottish Conservative Party conference in Aberdeen makes it highly unlikely that Mr Redwood will be able to reach any deal between the Government and Sir James, the leader of the Referendum Party. It increases the threat that Euro-sceptic candidates could be put up against Conservatives, helping Labour in key Tory marginals.

Its rejection will disappoint Tory Euro-sceptic MPs, who support the call for a fresh referendum on Europe. Bill Cash, the leading Euro-sceptic campaigner, will force a vote in June in the Commons on a referendum on Britain's membership of the EU. Mr Redwood proposed a compromise referendum, on whether Britain should part, or a European superstate.

Mr Rifkind said: "I don't believe there is any possibility of the Government considering further referendums on European issues. The single currency was a specific question."

Mr Rifkind was speaking after steering a careful line over the European ban on British beef which showed a clear dif-

ference of approach to Europe between Michael Heseltine and the Euro-sceptic Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth.

The Foreign Secretary side-stepped questions about Mr Forsyth's view, that the ban was part of a cynical exercise to destroy competition by Britain. He told the conference that the recommendation of EU vets for the partial lifting of the ban on some beef products was a 'step in the right direction'.

"We look to our European partners to accept that recommendation," he said. "I have to say to our European partners that the strategy pursued by them has not worked in that they hoped that by banning British beef their own industry would be OK."

COLIN BROWN

An attempt to win back the support of "Essex Man" was made yesterday by Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Scotland, with a claim that the Conservatives were the true party of the working class.

Dismissing Labour's claims that the Tories were only a middle-class party, Mr Lilley told the Scottish Conservative Party conference in Aberdeen that the party's appeal went far broader.

"We must make it clear. We Conservatives are the party of the hard-working classes. We don't care if they have blue collars or blue blood," he said.

The home of "Essex Man" - Basildon - fell to Labour in last week's local elections, underlying the extent to which the Tories have lost the traditional support of blue collar Conser-

vatives who put Margaret Thatcher in power.

"Mr Lilley's remarks were seen as a signal that the party's right wing, to which Mr Lilley belongs, will be pushing for a more strident appeal to win back the working-class 'Tory' supporters in the run-up to the general election."

The Secretary of State became the third Cabinet minister in two days to claim that plans by Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, to scrap child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds from wealthy families would amount to a "tenage tax" costing families £560 a year.

Ridiculing Labour's search for a solution to rising welfare spending, he said: "First they fiddled with the Singapore model. Then with the Australian model. Now with the Japanese model. They have dabbled with more seductive models than

Andrew Neil (former editor of the *Sunday Times*). And their commitment lasts as long."

The search for a populist manifesto for the Conservative Party was highlighted in a question and answer session. Paul Gillingham, the Tory MP for Ayrton, majority support in a straw poll of Tory representatives for a manifesto commitment to bring back the death penalty.

There was also strong support for silencing the Duchess of York and the Princess of Wales. Annabel Goldie, the deputy chairman of the Scottish Tory Party, called for a prohibition on "estranged and divorced royal spouses appearing daily in the newspapers and selling their stories to *Hello* magazine. What makes them think they have got a monopoly on cellulite?"

## Blair blames Tories for 'fear'

DONALD MACINTYRE  
Political Editor

Tony Blair yesterday launched what is likely to be one of his party's most dominant themes between now and the election - that the Tories have created an "insecure majority" for which he claimed Labour was the new champion.

Mr Blair used his speech to the Welsh Labour conference to condemn the Conservatives in the wake of the Westminster "homes for votes" scandal as a "degenerate party that loves lecturing the people about right and wrong but has long since ceased to know the difference between right and wrong itself."

But his speech was heavily injected with references to what private polling suggests is one of the lasting reasons for the Tories failure - so far - to stage a political recovery: "job insecurity and fear". It came as Paddy Ashdown, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, also combined a scathing attack on the Tories over Westminster council as "the final nail in the coffin of Tory probity" with a prediction that the next general election would be "a battle about trust".

This included "fear, fuelled by government legislation, that if you lose your job you also lose your home. Fear about crime. Fear that the NHS cannot cope and that any one of us, any one of our children or our parents could be the victim. Fear of poverty in old age."

Mr Blair said the electoral battlefield had once been portrayed as "Labour for the poor and disadvantaged against the Tories as the party of the secure and comfortable majority."

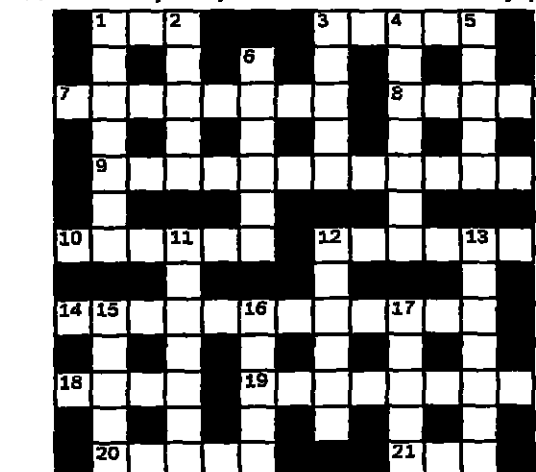
But, he added: "It has changed. It is Labour that now speaks up for the insecure majority, and puts forward the policies that meet their concerns."

Mr Ashdown, while declaring that the Conservatives had "completely lost the trust of the British people", warned that "the problem for Labour is that they are so frightened of their shadow ... that's why people don't trust Labour because they don't know whether the modern Labour Party is a Trojan horse or an empty vessel."

### concise crossword

No.2984 Saturday 11 May

By Spumas



#### ACROSS

- 1 Trees (3)
- 3 Odd (5)
- 7 Trigger for photoelectric security device (5,3)
- 8 Contest (4)
- 9 Brass tacks? (4,3,5)
- 10 Name of several English kings (6)
- 12 Failed to hit (6)
- 14 Sweet cold drink (3,5,4)
- 15 Region (4)
- 19 Foretells (8)
- 20 Pub (5)
- 21 Raincoat (3)

#### DOWN

- 1 Longed (7)
- 2 Narrow mid-section (5)
- 4 Sports ground (5)
- 5 Uneasy (7)
- 6 Sailing vessel (5)
- 8 Bomb (6)
- 11 Old (7)
- 12 Person belonging to society (6)
- 13 Flexible (7)
- 15 Pink colour (5)
- 16 Throw out (5)
- 17 Drug (5)

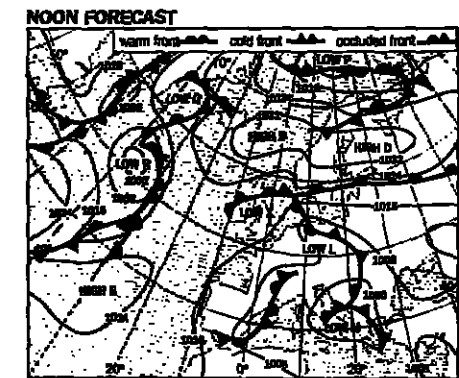
Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

Across: 1 Same, 4 Tonic (Saint Hilary), 9 Nether, 10 Lectern, 11 Earnings, 12 Wilt, 13 Saboteur, 14 Pils, 15 Thriller, 16 Ostrich, 17 India, 18 Lodge, 19 Yank, 20 Down, 21 Afters, 22 Enigma, 23 Telegraph pole, 24 Luck, 25 Emerald, 26 Ukase, 27 Kilt, 28 Ballad, 29 Timely, 30 German, 31 Prod, 32 Laden, 33 Good.

#### Notes

### Weather forecast

NOON FORECAST



High 11 will drift eastwards on High 12 across north and Ireland. Low 1 will remain over the North Sea with a cold front behind it.

WORLD WEATHER

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	12.0	10	100	Paris	11.0	10	100
Bristol	11.0	10	100	Amsterdam	10.0	10	100
Birmingham	10.0	10	100	Frankfurt	9.0	10	100
Manchester	9.0	10	100	Berlin	8.0	10	100
Newcastle	8.0	10	100	Munich	7.0	10	100
Glasgow	7.0	10	100	Zurich	6.0	10	100
Edinburgh	6.0	10	100	Vienna	5.0	10	100
Cardiff	5.0	10	100	Budapest	4.0	10	100
Belfast	4.0	10	100	Bratislava	3.0	10	100

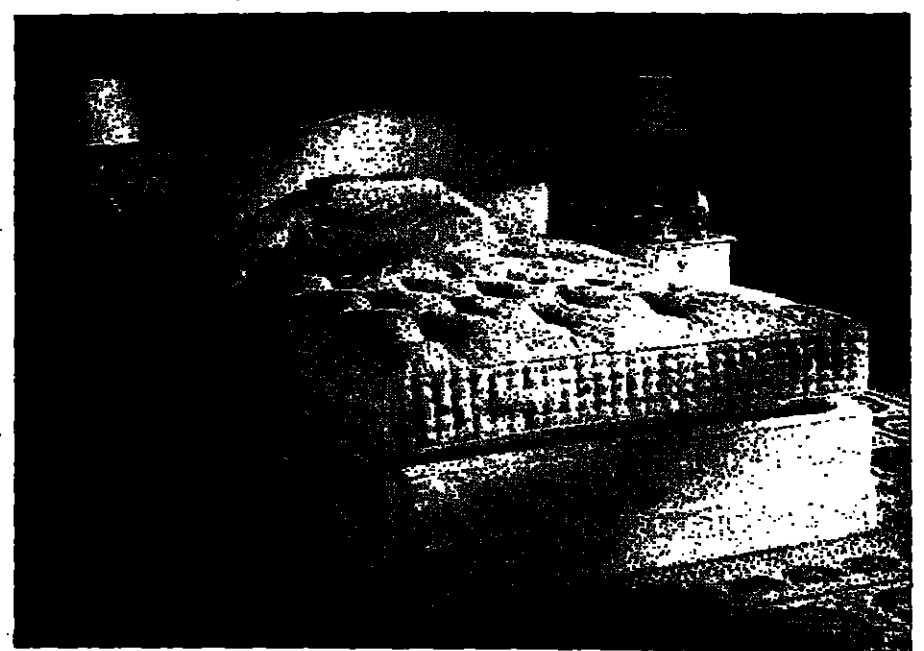
Source: The Met Office

YESTERDAY'S READINGS

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	11.0	10	100	Paris	10.0	10	100
Bristol	10.0	10	100	Amsterdam	9.0	10	100
Birmingham	9.0	10	100	Frankfurt	8.0	10	100
Manchester	8.0	10	100	Berlin	7.0	10	100
Newcastle	7.0	10	100	Munich	6.0	10	100
Glasgow	6.0	10	100	Zurich	5.0	10	100
Edinburgh	5.0	10	100	Vienna	4.0	10	100
Cardiff	4.0	10	100	Budapest	3.0	10	100
Belfast	3.0	10	100	Bratislava	2.0	10	100

Source: The Met Office

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# Loss of Bupa patients 'will mean NHS cuts'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS,  
Public Policy Editor

A move by Bupa, Britain's biggest health insurer, to encourage its 550,000 personal subscribers to switch to private hospitals rather than NHS pay-beds could have a devastating impact on NHS treatment, health service chiefs warned yesterday.

The switch could lead to the collapse of the NHS's £250m private patient income, Marco Cereste, chairman of the NHS Trust Federation claimed. That in turn would lead to cuts in NHS services as hospitals lost the profits from private patients and the efficiency gains from running pay-beds alongside NHS services.

The move was potentially "a

calastrophe" for the NHS, he said, adding: "We are not going to take this lying down." The Federation is consulting lawyers over whether Bupa's move is legal and will hold talks with PPP, Norwich Union and the other insurers to organise a fightback, Mr Cereste said.

Bupa accused the federation of "overreaction", saying that only £16m of its pay-beds for personal subscribers went to the NHS.

But Norwich Union, the third biggest health insurer, accused Bupa of reducing "choice and diversity" for its customers, adding that the move was aimed at protecting Bupa's own hospitals and those of the other private providers when they have been losing business to the NHS.

The row follows last month's launch of Bupa's new Health Fund which allows subscribers to build up credits which can then be spent on other health care products such as long-term care or fitness clubs.

In return, subscribers will normally be limited to a choice of only 150 private hospitals, including Bupa's own and those of Huddfield and BMI with whom the health insurer has cut advantageous deals.

Bruce Tranter, Bupa's marketing director, said it had gone only for private hospitals in part because there was "a question mark" over whether NHS pay-beds would continue under a Labour government. In addition, they offered the high quality "hotel" facilities Bupa's subscribers expected. Most

Bupa subscribers already used private rather than NHS units. But where it was clinically necessary and cleared with Bupa beforehand, patients would still be able to use private NHS beds, he said.

The federation was "overreacting", he added. Even if all its subscribers transferred to the new fund, the NHS would lose a maximum of £16m of business. "I don't know where the £250m figure comes from."

Mr Cereste, however, said the loss of £16m could be enough to destabilise the rest of the trusts' private patient income. "As a result, the whole organisation could collapse, costing us £200m to £250m in lost income. If that revenue stops, fewer NHS patients will be treated. It is as simple as that."

## Competition rises in private wards

Growing competition between private hospitals and the NHS lies behind yesterday's furious dispute over Bupa's move to restrict its private subscribers to using chiefly private hospitals.

Since 1990, the NHS has reversed a historic decline in its share of the private patient market, with a rapid expansion in NHS private units seeing it take 16 per cent of the business last year against a mere 11 per cent five years ago. Next year, independent analysts predict, it may take 20 per cent, making the NHS the biggest single provider of private care.

The expansion has come at the expense of the big private hospital groups - including BUPA itself - with occupancy across all private hospitals running at only 50 to 60 per cent, industry analysts said yesterday.

Bupa has also launched a novel Health Fund, aimed at restoring its declining share of the private insurance market. It offers those who switch to it "credits" that can be used to

wards a wide range of other health products from critical illness cover to disability income.

The price is a more restricted choice of hospitals for private treatment - down to 150 private-only hospitals against the 800-or-so, including NHS Trusts, which provide at least some private patient facilities.

Bupa yesterday argued this represented little change as more than 80 per cent of its subscribers already use the private sector rather than NHS pay-beds.

But Tim Baker, Norwich Union's commercial manager, accused Bupa - whose main board includes Sir Duncan Nichol, the former NHS chief executive - of reducing "choice and diversity" for its clients and of acting to protect its hospital interests from NHS competition. "There are big consumer disadvantages here,"

he said. Many private hospitals could not cope with a lot of the more complex work, he said. Patients might have to travel from Norwich to London, for example, to find a private hospital.

Norwich Union would continue to use NHS pay-beds, as "they are often more cost effective because they are able to share services with NHS hospitals. We want to encourage NHS pay-beds in order to encourage diversity and choice."

PPP, the second largest insurer, also said: "We have no plans to exclude NHS pay beds from our cover. In many respects the NHS is the provider of choice for our customers and we have plans to build on that relationship in future."

Industry estimates varied over how serious the impact of Bupa's move would be on NHS services, some suggesting that the NHS Trust Federation was overstating it. Bupa itself said it would depend on how many of its subscribers switched to its new scheme. Even if all 550,000

subscribers did so, only £16m at most of the NHS pay-bed business of approaching £250m would be affected, Bupa argued.

But William Laing of the analysts Laing and Buisson said that outside London a £16m loss "might well have a pretty devastating effect on a number of NHS pay-bed units."

Marco Cereste, the NHS Trust Federation chairman, said "we are not just going to allow this to happen." NHS pay-beds offered the better deal, he maintained. "For Bupa to have a preferred provider arrangement which excludes the NHS is ridiculous when if something does go wrong in a private hospital the patient will end up in the NHS anyway."

Despite the sharp growth in NHS private patient activity, it makes up less than 1 per cent of most NHS Trusts income, although some 30 earn more than 2 per cent of their income from private patients.

Nicholas Timmins

## United hero to stay away from Cup

WILL BENNETT

As Manchester United's Premier League heroes walk onto the turf at Wembley today, one of the club's greatest names from the past will not be there to watch them. Rather characteristically, the most likely place to find George Best will be in his local pub.

The last time Best - the mercurial Ulsterman whose raw ability thrilled a generation - went to Wembley, he was mobbed by enthusiastic fans and ended up watching the match in a nearby hotel room. It is an experience he does not want to repeat.

As United take on Liverpool today in an attempt to win the double, the Championship and the FA Cup, Mr Best will probably be watching in the pub in Chelsea, south-west London, where he is a familiar figure. He said: "It will be full of Chelsea fans so I can rub it in."

More than 400 Manchester United and Liverpool fans will not get to watch the match either. When they turn up at Wembley today they will find that the tickets for which they have paid up to £500 each on the black market are stolen.

Paul Sergeant, director of Wembley Stadium, said: "Every FA Cup final ticket is recorded somewhere in the system. We know exactly which tickets were stolen and anyone coming in with one of those will definitely be stopped and probably arrested as well."

Bookmakers say that this year's final will attract record bets, and both teams are quoted at 13-8 to win in normal time, making it the closest final ever. Trevor Phillips, a senior Football Association official who resigned as an investigation began into alleged illegal ticket sales for the Euro 96 football championships yesterday denied any wrongdoing. "I am sure that I have done nothing to be ashamed of," he said.



Sitting pretty: Wembley being prepared for today's FA Cup final. Photograph: Robert Hallam

## Fourteen killed as air crash mars giant Allied exercise

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY  
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

The biggest joint British and US military exercise since the Gulf War was overshadowed by tragedy yesterday when two US Marine helicopters collided in darkness, killing 14 people and seriously injuring two.

The CH46 Sea Knight transport helicopter and AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter collided over Courthouse Bay, five miles north of the beach where British and US Marines had begun landing at midnight.

The aircraft crashed in flames at 2am, their wreckage landing in a marshy, wooded area, making identification difficult. No British personnel were involved. As the troops began landing

the climax of the exercise - dozens of helicopters flew overhead, showing red safety lights, but more reliant than usual on night vision equipment. At one point on Thursday a thousand aircraft were in the air.

Although the Sea Knight is approaching the end of its useful life, Pentagon sources said yesterday they did not think mechanical failure was to blame.

The US authorities have launched an investigation, which is expected to take several months.

Flying operations were halted immediately after the crash but resumed after dawn. The US Marines - whose headquarters are at nearby Camp Lejeune - were devastated by the news, but said they were carrying on with the exercise.

The Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo, who landed with one of the waves of British troops at 8.30am yesterday, said the British fleet was flying flags at half-mast out of respect for the US casualties.

"It just goes to show that, even on an exercise, servicemen take risks," Mr Portillo said. "Of course they'll be a shadow, but none the less the exercise will be of great value to save life in the future."

Exercise "Purple Star" is the biggest British amphibious operation since the Falklands and the biggest joint US and British exercise of this type since the Allies' Normandy landings in 1944.

A total of 38,200 US personnel and 15,600 British are involved. The US Air Force is providing 171 aircraft, the RAF 56; the US Navy 26 ships and the Royal Navy 27.

But most of the aircraft are from the US Marines' Second Marine Expeditionary Force which has 30 flying squadrons, totalling more than 400 aircraft. The main body of this force - 40,000 Marines - is based at Camp Lejeune and the air component at two Marine Corps air stations, New River and Cherry Point. The helicopters involved in Friday morning's crash were from 266 Marine Aviation Squadron based at New River.

The US authorities declined to release the names of the dead until their families had been informed.

## 'War game' proves point for new rapid deployment force

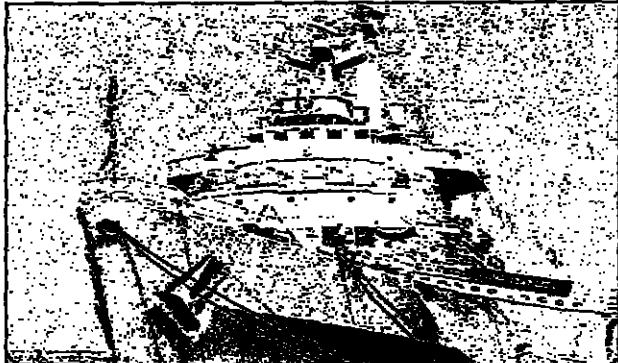
CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY

"It's a *Scopre* - special forces - on their way inland. A heavy droning sound a few hundred feet above in the starry midnight sky was an AC-130 *Scopre* - a modified gunship - Hercules used by the US special forces. Three to five miles out to sea a necklace of lights showed the position of 13 big ships out of a total of nearly 60 British, other European and US ships massing off shore.

At midnight, right on time, 42 Commando Royal Marines in landing craft and US marines in hovercraft hit the dark beach, a few lights picking up the white surf in their wake: "Purple Star" was under way.

The special forces - the American Seals, the British Special Boat Service and the patrol group from 3rd Commando Brigade - were already ashore and 45 Commando had landed by helicopter at an inland drop zone an hour before.

Only the lights told you it was an exercise - if it was real, the ships would have been completely blacked out. But even so, any of the forces invading the fictitious Republic of Kartuna would have heard and sensed the colossal presence just



In command: HMS Fearless which led the assault

off the coast. Fifty-four thousand British and US troops, sailors and airmen, were driving inland to end the aggression of the neighbouring state of Kartuna and enforce the UN's will.

They had begun to assemble on Thursday, 30 miles off Onslow Beach, North Carolina. Commanding the assault was HMS *Fearless*. Ahead was *Sir Tristan*, repaired after taking a hit in the Falklands, and *Sir Galahad* built anew after its predecessor was destroyed. On the horizon were eight gunships, sleek shapes like the British *Cumberland* and *Southampton* and US warships with 5-inch guns.

As in all military operations

the sweat and physical effort at the sharp end contrasted with the almost abstract language and detachment of the planners.

The exercise is part of the final work up for Britain's new permanent joint headquarters, recently inaugurated at Northwood, Middlesex, and of the joint rapid deployment force which includes 3 Commando and 5 Airborne brigades.

In spite of a long tradition of inter-service rivalry in Britain it is clear that in all future operations the services will work together, even at the lowest level. There is still some resistance to the idea, but none was evident "at the sharp end" yesterday.

## Diana asks the Queen to hasten divorce

MICHAEL STREETER

The Queen has been urged to intervene again in the divorce negotiations between the Prince and Princess of Wales after a personal complaint from Princess Diana that talks between the pair's representatives have effectively stalled.

The Princess met the Queen on Wednesday to express her concern at the slow progress of

the proceedings, which have lasted for nearly five months. In contrast the Duke and Duchess of York reached a divorce settlement within ten days.

She is believed to have "implied" that if Prince Charles's side failed to speed up progress she may simply pull out and wait for the Prince to go for a divorce based on five years separation - meaning a delay of nearly two more years. They formally parted

in December 1992. The afternoon meeting with the Queen, who sees all senior members of the Royal Family on a regular basis, is regarded by some observers as yet another "play" by the Princess to obtain the best possible divorce terms.

The main obstacle to settlement appears to be money. Speculation about the lump sum the princess has been seeking ranges from £15m to £50m,

a sum the Prince could not afford on his own. He is thought to be looking for a cheaper deal based on annual payments from his Duchy of Cornwall. There are also negotiations over the Princess's title after divorce.

Buckingham Palace refused to confirm the meeting, merely observing that the Queen meets family members regularly and that "the Princess of Wales is no exception".



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY



## news



Cold comfort: Islanders on Lewis, in the Outer Hebrides, cutting peat for drying this summer to use as fuel next winter. Most people on the island have oil and gas for heating but storms at the New Year left many cut off and reliant on the briquettes. Photograph: Colin McPherson

## College inquiry stresses needs of employers

FRAN ABRAMS  
Education Correspondent

Academic study could take a back seat to the needs of employers and to international competitiveness in the biggest review of higher education in Britain for more than 30 years. Five business people and a trades unionist will join seven university representatives, a head teacher, a student and a senior further education college official on Sir Ron Dearing's committee of inquiry, due to report next year.

Terms of reference for the inquiry, published yesterday, emphasise the need for universities to supply graduates with the skills needed by

industry. The labour market and the need to be internationally competitive are mentioned 10 times, scholarship only four.

Sir Ron and his committee have been asked to look at how the purpose, shape, structure, size and funding of higher education need to develop to meet the needs of the UK over the next 20 years.

In the past 15 years the proportion of 18-year-olds going to university has risen from one in five to almost one in three, and five to almost one in three more mature people have taken up university places. The expansion has led to debate on student grants and loans and on the quality of degrees.

Sir Ron's hardest task will be solving the problem of student support. Students say of grants topped up by loans leave them impoverished, but accept the only way forward is bigger loans paid back over a longer period. Both main political parties have shifted their views on the subject in the past year, but are reluctant to announce their policies before the election.

The committee has been asked to look at degree quality, which is already the subject of an inquiry by the universities' quality council. There has been

talk of a national curriculum for universities.

Among its members will be Baroness Dean, formerly the print workers' union leader Brenda Dean, and Sir Geoffrey Holland, former permanent secretary at the Department for Education and now a vice-chancellor. Business people have been appointed from Sainsbury's, Psion Plc, Ulster Bank, Glaxo-Wellcome and the Weir Group, a Glasgow-based pump and valve manufacturer's.

Announcing the inquiry's membership and remit yesterday Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education, said it would have a significant influence on future generations.

"Higher education has a vital role to play in raising the levels of the nation's skills and competitiveness and thus enhancing our capacity to generate wealth and to improve our quality of life," she said.

Labour nominated several members to the committee. David Blunkett, the party's education spokesman, welcomed the announcement. He said: "It was developed in the same spirit of bi-partisanship which governed the establishment of the inquiry," he said.

## Maxwell backs Oyston defence

Kevin Maxwell, son of the late media mogul Robert, told a court yesterday that he had dined out with the tycoon Owen Oyston and a woman the millionaire is accused of raping three years after the sex attack was alleged to have taken place.

Mr Maxwell told Liverpool Crown Court he remembered the occasion in 1992 because it was only hours before his dawn arrest by the Serious Fraud Office on charges on which he has since been acquitted.

He said he had met Mr Oyston, 62, at the Hilton Hotel in central London and had drinks in his hotel suite with the woman and the tycoon's personal assistant. The four of them had gone on to an Italian trattoria in Chelsea.

The model claims Mr Oyston raped her in 1989, when she was aged 18, at his country home near Lancaster. He denies the charges and the rape and indecent assault of a girl aged 16. Mr Maxwell said he had become friends with Mr Oyston, the

chairman of Blackpool Football Club, after he wrote expressing condolences over their father's death in 1991.

Mr Oyston and the woman had seemed to be on "perfectly amicable" terms, Mr Maxwell said. "There was no friction at all in the room. I remember assuming she was his girlfriend."

Mr Maxwell said he had not been able to remember the woman's name but had recognised her from a photograph. Challenged about how he could remember the occasion so clearly, he said: "I have only been arrested once in my life and you don't forget it. You don't forget what you were doing a few hours before, you don't forget it ever."

A man and woman from the jury had earlier squeezed into the back seats of a Toyota Supra sports car to test the claims of the second alleged victim that Mr Oyston had forced her to perform oral sex as they were driven to his home. The case resumes on Monday.

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## Bill on stalking commandeered by Home Office

STEPHEN GOODWIN  
Parliamentary Correspondent

Accusations were traded yesterday after the Government blocked a back-bench Bill to outlaw stalking, and announced that it was preparing its own legislation.

Labour MP Janet Anderson told the Commons that government tactics meant "victims of stalking would have to wait at least another year to be put out of their misery".

The single word "object", called out by a Government whip as Ms Anderson's stalking Bill came up for a formal Second Reading, consigned the measure to legislative oblivion.

Earlier in the day, David Maclean, Minister of State at the Home Office, said the Government would publish its own proposals "at the earliest opportunity".

Dismissing Ms Anderson's Bill as "full of flaws", he said: "We believe its scope is too wide. It could mean that innocent people going about their

lawful business could find themselves branded as criminals."

He added: "She has made a valiant attempt to come forward with a Bill but unfortunately the scope of it is much too wide."

Labour believes the Government has simply seen tackling the menace of stalking as a popular issue – ideal for the kind of action Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, likes to unveil at Conservative Party conferences.

Ms Anderson said: "Ministers know very well that they could amend the Bill in committee. Their proposals will be similar to mine but what they cannot stand is the thought of a Labour MP getting the credit for putting this measure on to the statute book."

Ms Anderson, MP for Rossendale and Darwen, estimates that around 3,000 people are stalked each year.

She drafted her Bill after talks with the Lord Chancellor, senior Home Office officials, the Police Federation and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust.

It proposed enabling magis-

trates to order an exclusion zone around a victim and require the stalker to undergo counselling.

Breaking the order would be a criminal offence.

The Bill included a legal definition of stalking – making it an offence to follow, watch, approach by telephone, interfere with property, leave offensive material or regularly visit "so that the other person is likely to be harassed, alarmed, distressed or to fear for their safety".

Mr Howard insisted on Radio 4's *World at One* programme that he was "as keen as anyone to take effective action to end the misery which is caused by stalking".

But he added: "You can't do that by a Bill which isn't workable and which criminalises many innocent activities."

Under existing legislation, stalkers cannot be prosecuted if their obsessive pursuit falls short of intentional harassment or threatening behaviour, though they may still be causing terror to their victims.

## Pensioner faces war crimes charges at Old Bailey



Szymon Serafinowicz, an 85-year-old refugee accused of murdering Jews during the German occupation of Belorussia, now Belarus, in the winter of 1941-42.

He faces three charges of killing Jews during the German occupation of Belorussia, now Belarus, in the winter of 1941-42.

He faces three charges of killing Jews during the German occupation of Belorussia, now Belarus, in the winter of 1941-42.

The grey-haired retired carpenter from Banstead, Surrey, spoke just once, to confirm his name, during the 36-minute hearing in court number one before Mr Justice Potts.

Serafinowicz, who was wearing a maroon V-neck jumper, blue check shirt, beige jacket and brown trousers with suede shoes, was allowed to leave the dock and sit in the well of the

court for most of the appearance because of a hearing problem. He did not enter any pleas.

The first charge claims that on 9 November, 1941, Serafinowicz "a person resident in the UK on the 8th day of March, 1990, in Mir, Belorussia, a town then under German occupation, murdered a Jew [unknown] in circumstances constituting a vi-

olation of the laws and customs of war".

The second allegation, worded in similar terms, alleged the offence was committed between 31 December and 1 March, 1942, in the village of Kryiczne.

The last charge states that between 1 January, 1942 and 2 May the same year, he murdered a third unknown Jew in

Dolmatowiczyna, another village under German occupation.

John Nutting QC, prosecuting, told the court that the full trial, due to start on 6 January next year, was expected to last between two and three months.

However, a preliminary hearing has been fixed for 16 October. Serafinowicz was granted conditional bail.

## Court bans Eubank stalker

A judge yesterday ordered a man alleged to have stalked the wife of the former world boxing champion Chris Eubank to stay away from her home.

A temporary injunction against Russell Bennett, 32, who is in hospital undergoing treatment under the Mental Health Act, was granted at Brighton County Court.

The case came on the day that the Government announced it would bring in measures to outlaw stalking "at the earliest opportunity" after rejecting as "unworkable" and "full of flaws" a private Bill put forward by the Labour backbencher Janet Anderson.

Yesterday's injunction issued by deputy district judge Albery Humphry was taken out by Karen Eubank, 30, against Mr Bennett after he was arrested on



The Eubanks' intruder 'terrified' boxer's wife

the roof of the couple's home in Hove, East Sussex, wearing the ex-champion's boxing shorts and trainers on Tuesday night.

Mrs Eubank pressed a panic button to alert police after spotting him when the house's security alarm went off. Police said she was "terrified" as she

watched him roam through the gym which adjoins the house.

A police helicopter was called out to trap an intruder.

Damage estimated at £4,000-£5,000 was done to the house belonging, including a pair of 29-year-old Eubank's boxing gloves, said police. Paperwork relating to the boxer's business interests was also defaced.

A spokesman for Eubank – who was away on business – later said he was "upset" by what happened.

No charges were brought against Mr Bennett, who was ordered to undergo treatment.

Later, outside the court, Mrs Eubank's solicitor, Miss Naomi Turner, said the injunction prevented Mr Bennett, 32, from going within 200 metres of the boxer's property and pestering or harassing her.

## Murder trial told of kidnap sex fantasy

One of the two alleged murderers of nine-year-old Daniel Handley told police that he never believed their sexual fantasies about abducting and killing a young boy would turn into reality, an Old Bailey court heard yesterday.

"It was a fantasy. It was just something we talked about. It was nothing we were going to do. We did not plan it – it was just talk," Brett Tyler told po-

lice in a videoed interview after his arrest.

"I never thought we were really going to do it. I did not think Tim Morris did either."

Tyler said he and Morris would drive around "and just talk and fantasise about grabbing a boy, taking him hostage and do anything you ever dreamt about – any sexual perversion you could think of". The fantasy involved either

blindfolding a boy so he could not see and then letting him go "or you would have to kill him. When I said 'no' Tim said he could do it."

Morris, 33, of Leyton, east London, has admitted murdering, bugging and falsely imprisoning Daniel on 2 October 1994. Tyler, 30, of no fixed address, denies murdering the boy, but admits buggery and false imprisonment.

Daniel was snatched from a London street while riding his bike, taken to a flat, and sexually assaulted. He was then driven towards Bristol, strangled in a lay-by, and buried in woodland. His body was unearthed by animals six months later.

Tyler said Morris had said he was getting frustrated and would "love to do a snatch".

"I just went along with the fantasy," he said they had

filmed each other taking it in turns to bugger the boy. Tyler had smoked cannabis and had a vodka and tonic before.

Tyler told police that, when he asked Morris whether he had dreams or thought about the killing, his friend had replied "no". "He just said he had more time with Daniel. He said it was a waste and he wanted another one."

The trial continues on Monday.

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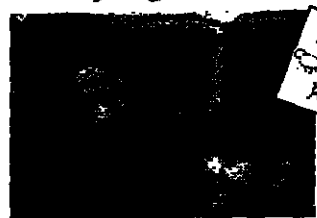
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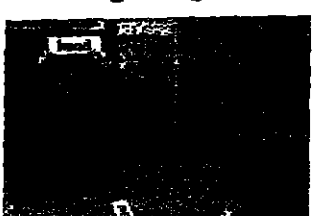
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FROM GREENE KING



## news

# Patients on-line to improve health choice

GLENDA COOPER

Health authorities should set up "virtual reality health councils" so that patients can access information from public computers in the high street. Ordinary people must be "given power over themselves, their illnesses and their lives," said John Spiers, chairman of the Patients Association, addressing a conference of cancer specialists in Birmingham.

Mr Spiers said regional health authorities should provide data on treatments' success rate and patient experiences which could be posted on the Internet. This then could be accessed by rich or poor alike from computers in public places paid for by the authority.

"Information on public health should be available in every high street. It will change the emphasis," he said. "There will be a fundamental change in the distribution of intelligence."

By allowing patients to get on-line they could learn where the most efficient and successful hospitals were and demand the most effective treatment.

But Robert Gann, director of the charity Help For Health

Trust, warned that more information was not always a good thing.

He told the Cancer Services: From Calman To The Millennium conference that the emphasis should be on good quality data. "Poor quality information attractively packaged on the Internet is the worst of all possible worlds," he said. "There should be less concentration on the medium and more on the message."

But doctors should realise that the patient knows best when it comes to judging the impact of disease, added a consultant clinical psychologist. They often failed to grasp what concerns their patients, but if they took their views into consideration they could find which treatment most effectively help quality of life, said Dr Anne Cull from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's medical oncology unit at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh.

When patients were asked how much their experience tallied with the doctor's perception of it on a scale of 0.1 to 1 (where 0.1 was completely unrelated and 1 was perfect agreement), the result came out at 0.31.

"Doctors and nurses are often poor judges of patients' experience," she said. "Symptoms and side-effects do affect patients' quality of life. Patients often welcome quality of life assessment within their treatment as a vital opportunity to explain their feelings and personal experiences."

When cancer patients in Canada were asked to fill in a questionnaire they were so keen to have their feelings made known that 95 per cent replied, answering 99 per cent of it.

Dr Cull told delegates that such data could be used to give patients more information about the implications of treatments, enabling them to make more informed choices. But she added that further research into areas such as sexuality, fatigue and brain function still needed to be carried out to ensure the clinical usefulness of quality of life measurement.

"Quality of life assessment in clinical practice may require a modest investment of staffed time, but it provides a cost-effective means of highlighting the patients' concerns which will lead to improvements in doctor-patient communications."

## Wanted: Nature-loving female to share home-made hut in deepest Wales



Nature calls: Tony Westwood stalks the fish which form a part of his diet, along with willow bark, thistle, and the odd worm. Photograph: Rob Stratton

## Part-time hermit seeks Girl Friday to share wild life

MICHAEL PRESTAGE

Surviving in the wilds of Snowdonia, North Wales, for weeks on end can be a challenging and lonely business, which is why Tony Westwood is looking for a Girl Friday to share his solitude.

In an offer that echoes Gerald Kingsland who took a partner to a tropical paradise on the island of Tuvalu, Mr Westwood, 33, hopes the loneliness of his chosen lifestyle can be lifted.

Mr Kingsland's partner, Lucy Irvine, wrote a best-selling book on her experiences which spawned the film *Casanova*, starring Oliver Reed and Amanda Donohoe.

All Mr Westwood can guarantee is that worms are only eaten as a last resort and if a film is made the production costs will be considerably lower.

Speaking from his cottage on the borders of the Snowdonia national park, five miles from Caernarfon, the nearest town, Mr Westwood explained that local women had shown only reluctance to share his two-month expedition this summer.

"Without sounding unpleasant, the girls tend to be a bit white shoes and handbags. They are not keen on the idea of a home built from branches and leaf mould," he said.

He makes rope from plants and tree bark, fashions clay pots and has a North American Indian-designed loom for making cloth. He lives on a largely veg-

etarian diet of plants such as thistle and the inner bark of the willow tree, supplemented with fish he spears or traps. Animals are only snared and eaten as a last resort, as are crickets and grasshoppers, though he points out the insects rival steak for protein.

An out-of-work labourer, Mr Westwood first turned to bushcraft three years ago after reading a book on surviving in the wild. But he eschews the Rambo overtones of many of his fellow practitioners.

There's loads of people into military magazines and cracking on they are former members of the Special Air Services," he said. "If anybody ever asks I tell them I'm ex-SAS - an ex-Salvation Army Singer. It helps take them down a peg. For myself I just enjoy the outdoors."

He has used his skills in charity events to raise money for the Hope House, Children's Respite Hospice, Oswestry, Shropshire. Unfortunately, few major sponsors came forward. With his shaven and tattooed head and nose rings he admits his appearance is off-putting.

"People tend to be prejudiced if you don't look how they expect," he said. "I had the tattoos done when I was 18 and... have gone bald since."

He was unsure just where the best place would be to advertise for a suitable partner but hopes the publicity over his appeal will encourage a suitable volunteer to step forward.

## 'Host' of clues to unsolved murder

A man who served two years in jail after being wrongly convicted of murdering his girlfriend's parents yesterday urged police to follow up "a whole host of leads" mentioned by Court of Appeal judges in their reasons for freeing him.

Jonathan Jones, 37, of Orpington, Kent, was freed on 25 April after the three appeal judges said they were all of the "clear view" that his conviction for killing Harry Toze, 64, and his 67-year-old wife Megan were unsafe.

Mr Jones and his girlfriend Cheryl Toze were outraged when South Wales police issued a statement, shortly afterwards, saying they were not looking for anyone else in connection with the killings at the Tozoes' farmhouse in Llanharry, Mid Glamorgan, in July 1993.

But yesterday, in their reasons for clearing Mr Jones, the judges mentioned sightings of four-wheel drive vehicles near the farmhouse, noisy arguments and a mystery middle-aged man seen with the Tozoes.

Mr Jones said: "It is now time the police got off their backsides and reopened the investigation. I know they have been investigating the case even while I was in prison and it is no good

from them to say that they are waiting for new evidence."

"The judges mentioned a whole host of leads which were never followed up. The police own computers which could have been used to try to trace the Suzuki seen near the farmhouse by neighbours. That was never done."

He added: "I don't think the inquiry was ever completed. It was superficial. It should not just be closed, it should be reopened and lessons learnt from what has happened."

Ms Toze, 36, added: "I no longer have any respect for the South Wales police... Some where there is a person or persons who killed my parents out there and they may kill again. That is why the investigation must be reopened but I don't think South Wales police should do it."

South Wales police later stressed that the file on the murders was not closed. Assistant Chief Constable Bob Evans said: "We wish to re-emphasise that we will rigorously follow up any new information which may come to light in respect of these murders."

The force noted that the Court of Appeal had made no adverse comment or criticism of the police investigation.

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## Space satellites to study effect of Sun's lethal wind

TOM WILKIE  
Science Editor

A flying formation of four identical satellites will be launched by the European Space Agency later this month to watch the weather in space and study the effect on the Earth of storms on the surface of the Sun.

The "Cluster" space mission will probe how the Earth's magnetic field acts as a shield to divert the torrent of sub-nuclear particles streaming out from the Sun. These particles of the "solar wind" would otherwise hit the ground at speeds of 1.5-3 million km an hour.

According to professor Alan Johnstone, of the Mullard Space Science Laboratory at University College London, without the Earth's magnetosphere human life would not survive. It "protects us by shielding us from the radiation from the sun. It's also helped us to hang on to our atmosphere".

Apart from Venus, no other planet is capable of sustaining life, professor Johnstone said,

because they all lack protective magnetic fields.

The shield sometimes breaks. In March 1989 there was a power failure throughout Quebec in Canada when a solar storm tripped the entire electricity grid. But the breakdown can be breathtakingly beautiful when it takes the form of the shifting curtains of light in the high atmosphere over the poles - the aurora borealis and australis.

Dr Paul Murdin, head of astronomy at the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, said: "When the Sun sneezes, we on Earth have the possibility of catching cold and we want to learn how to turn our heads away and not get ill."

The researchers were speaking at a press conference in London yesterday revealing the scientific details of the Cluster mission.

Each satellite weighs about 1.2 tonnes and will be launched into geostationary orbit in the first lift-off by the latest and largest European rocket

launcher, the Ariane 5.

Europe hopes to steal a march on the Americans, Russians and Japanese with the Ariane 5, which will be its work-horse in the commercial-satellite-launching business in the next century.

When Ariane 5 reaches orbit, the four Cluster satellites "will pop out like peas out of a pea-shooter", according to Dr Murdin. The satellites will then use their own on-board rocket motors to move into a highly elliptical orbit, which will take them over the north and south poles of the earth. They will fly in formation and their controllers on Earth will be able to vary the distance between the satellites from 600km to a few thousand kilometres. The Cluster satellites will carry a total of 44 instruments measuring magnetic storms, electrical currents, and particle accelerations that take place in the space around our planet. The mission will last for at least two years and has cost Europe and the US around £500m over 10 years.



## £100 fines to silence too noisy neighbours

STEPHEN GOODWIN  
Parliamentary Correspondent

A legal remedy for dealing with the pounding beat of a neighbour's hi-fi in the small hours of the night moved a step nearer yesterday when the Noise Bill cleared the Commons.

The backbench Bill provides for £100 on-the-spot fines and the confiscation of equipment causing the nuisance.

According to a recent survey, noise is the problem which most divides neighbours. The number of complaints have risen inexorably.

Last month a 40-year old company director was given a suspended jail sentence for firing airgun pellets at the flat of a neighbour in Clapham, south London, because he constantly played rave music.

Other noise cases over the past 18 months have included have included a grandmother ordered by a judge to stop playing and singing along to Jim Reeves records, a Sussex man given an absolute discharge for smashing his neighbour's hi-fi with an axe after "six months of hell", and a 34-year old angina sufferer dying after a confrontation with a neighbour pounding out heavy metal music on his CD player.

Introduced by Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing North, the Bill gives councils in England and Wales power to take action against noise from domestic properties between 11pm and 7am. Where cases go

to court, rather than being dealt with by an on-the-spot fine, offenders face a fine of up to £1,000.

James Clappison, an environment minister, said the voluntary approach would be reviewed in two years and councils might then be forced to adopt its provisions if they had not already done so.

Denying he was a "killjoy", Mr Greenway said: "One in 10 homes suffer severe noise. It's as serious as that and we can't sit back and do nothing."

The Bill, which has all-party support and goes to the House of Lords, also introduces into law an objective measure of the level of noise regarded as a nuisance - 35 decibels. It is about the equivalent of having a television at normal volume in the room.

The Treasure Bill, overhauling the ancient law of treasure trove in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, completed its Commons stages.

A backbench measure, it redefines treasure to cover all objects, other than coins, which contain at least 10 per cent by weight of gold or silver, and are at least 300 years old. The measure also provides protection for hoards of coins.

Coroners' juries will no longer have to decide if an object was deliberately buried with the intention of being recovered - an often unprovable condition under existing law of a find's status as treasure - or simply lost.

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## Police chief in plea over girl's drug death

The senior policeman whose daughter died after taking a mixture of alcohol, ecstasy tablets and painkillers yesterday appealed plea to other youngsters to avoid her mistakes.

Roy Pierce, a superintendent in Nottinghamshire, said in a statement following the inquest into the death of his daughter, Claire: "To all those other beautiful young people out there, please reflect long and hard on Claire's tragic death and please, please don't make the same mistake."

Superintendent Mick Salt, who read the statement, denied that the death of his colleague's daughter was an embarrassment to the force. However, he promised that to "make every effort as a force to track the source of the ecstasy".

The inquest in Nottingham was told that the 20-year-old may have died trying to achieve a better ecstasy high on a trip with friends from her home in Mansfield to a Derby nightclub.

The coroner heard that Ms Pierce, a student, had died after consuming up to 20 distalgesic painkillers on top of one and a half ecstasy pills and a

large amount of alcohol, including vodka, strong cider and alcoholic lemonade.

Detective Inspector Brian Dennis said that on the way to the club, Ms Pierce sold five ecstasy tablets and shared three with a friend, Vicky Burgess.

Ms Pierce later complained of a headache and was seen to consume 10 distalgesic tablets and pocket another strip of 10.

Ms Burgess told police she had seen her best friend taking up to eight similar tablets while on ecstasy. The mixture is commonly known on the rave scene to provide a "higher hit".

At about 4am some of the group travelled to a friend's house in Mansfield where Ms Pierce was "extremely drunk and incoherent". Det Insp Dennis said she was left to sleep with a coat over her but a friend noticed she looked cold. "Claire's head and limbs had appeared to have gone blue," he said.

Dr Nigel Chapman recorded a verdict of accidental death saying a post mortem had revealed Ms Pierce died of poisoning from the alcohol and headache tablets containing the drug Co-proxamol.

## international

## French say 'non' to single currency

MARY DEJEVSKY  
Paris

Even if France meets the economic criteria for joining the single European currency in time for the 1 January 1999 starting date, French voters might well reject the idea – if given a choice. This is the principal – and startling – finding of a new opinion poll, published in the latest issue of the quarterly journal, *Géopolitique*.

The journal, published by the Institute of the same name, is an independent academic publication, and the poll – conducted by the IPSOS organisation – is believed to be the first genuinely independent survey of French opinion on the subject.

Previous polls, which have shown a steady majority in favour, have been commissioned mostly by France's mainstream political parties, all of which support the single currency.

The new poll suggests that the French are almost as suspicious of a single European currency as the British and just as keen to take part in a referendum before it is introduced. A full 80 per cent of those asked said they wanted to be directly consulted, by referendum, before the politicians went any further towards introducing a single currency.

Almost 60 per cent rejected the idea of any new currency in general, and the euro in particular.

There was a general disinclination to be paid in euros or to use them for everyday shopping; and only 49 per cent of those asked even accepted the need for a single currency to facilitate transactions between EU member countries.

A big difference between the latest poll and the earlier ones was the specific nature of the questions asked. These went

beyond the general "Do you favour a single European currency?" to probe the extent of public confidence in the projected euro. The results were not encouraging for the French government, which appears determined that France should be among the first countries to join the single currency on the planned date.

Only 34 per cent of those asked thought that a single currency would help safeguard the value of savings, against 41 per cent who thought it would not; only 33 per cent thought it would have a beneficial effect on unemployment (compared

with 50 per cent who thought not), and there was similar scepticism about the euro's potential to protect health and social benefits and financial security in retirement.

Several questions also touched on the delicate matter of how a single currency might affect national sovereignty. Some 56 per cent thought it would have a negative effect on France's independence, while 58 per cent disliked the idea that a central European bank might set interest rates across Europe. Although President Chirac held out the prospect of a referendum on the single currency during last year's election campaign, he has not mentioned the subject since taking office and his public statements have stressed his total commitment to the single currency.

The latest poll results were reported yesterday in a very low-key way by the daily *Figaro* – which takes a generally pro-Chirac editorial line – under the headline "Single currency: a certain disenchantment". But it was not clear from the poll results whether the French were really cooling to the euro, or whether this was just the first time that the more sensitive questions had been asked.

Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus said he opposed introduction of a single European currency as it would bring European taxes which Czechs would have to pay in Brussels, *Reuters* in Prague reports.

The economics daily *Hospodarske Noviny* quoted Klaus as telling an election campaign meeting he did not want to have "European citizenship" on his identification card "in 10 or 20 years".

"I want to remain a Czech citizen and pay Czech taxes," Klaus told the meeting on Thursday in the small town of Neratovice, north of Prague.

## Chirac to calm German defence fears

JIMRE KARACS  
Bonn

President Jacques Chirac was expected to pay a courtesy call on Germany's Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, last night, in an apparent effort to soothe German nerves about impending French defence cuts.

On Monday, the French cabinet is expected to finalise its five-year military-procurement programme, which Bonn fears may damage co-operation between the two countries.

Mr Kohl is concerned in particular about three joint projects: a helicopter, a military transport craft and the Franco-German spy satellite, *Helios*.

Faced with soaring budget deficits that threaten to scupper European Monetary Union in 1999, the two governments have recently adopted stringent cuts in public expenditure.

The effects of these austerity measures are already becoming visible in France, as the vast conscription-based armed forces are slashed down in the biggest upheaval of the defence sector since the war.

In Germany, the Defence Minister, Volker Rühe, must identify cuts amounting to several billion German marks by next month. Mr Rühe is tempted to slash projects with the highest degree of symbolism but least military content.

At the top of such a list would be *Helios*, the satellite designed to end Europe's dependence on US technology. Chancellor Kohl was badgered into signing up for *Helios* at last year's summit with President Chirac in Baden-Baden, even though Germany is perfectly happy with current arrangements within the Nato framework.

Mr Kohl may not be in such cordial mood this time. After the Murooa fiasco, when President Chirac failed to forewarn France's most important military ally about the nuclear tests, Paris pledged to improve communication links. Imagine, therefore, Chancellor Kohl's surprise when he had to learn in March about the French defence reforms from the media.

German leaders are still smarting from that debacle. In one swoop, France was doing away with its conscripted force, to replace it with a professional army which, for historic reasons, Germans of all shades mistrust.

Although the Bundeswehr is finding it increasingly difficult to fill the annual quota of recruits, hiring soldiers for money is a subject no self-respecting politician dare broach in Bonn.

Mr Chirac was doubtless going to reassure Chancellor Kohl last night that a decision of such importance would never again be taken behind Bonn's back, but the damage has already been done.

Hampered by shrinking budgets and undermined by mutual mistrust, the Franco-German axis needs more lubricant than a short dinner between President Chirac and Chancellor Kohl can provide.



Chirac: Defence cuts may put joint projects at risk

## An icy blast from the Cold War past

MOSCOW DAYS

Driving through the streets of Moscow, that were draped with flags for the war veterans' holiday, to the Foreign Ministry press centre, where a spokesman was due to brief reporters on the spying row between Britain and Russia this week, I was overcome with a sense of *déjà vu*. Moscow's accusation that a spy ring was operating at the British embassy and threat to expel diplomats smacked of the tense days of the Cold War, when I first began working here.

It must have been months, if not years, since most Western journalists had attended a routine Tuesday afternoon briefing at the Foreign Ministry. In Soviet times, when the witty Gennady Gerasimov was spokesman there, we hung on his every word because the press conference was often our only source of news on events

Tit-for-tat was a frequent game, and expulsion an occupational hazard for foreigners here

inside this closed country. But since reforms, we have had access to information of all kinds. The briefing was packed again yesterday, however.

The new spokesman, Grigory Karasin, remarked slyly: "It must be the warm spring sunshine that has brought you all out." In good old Soviet style, he then proceeded to drone on about Moscow's view of affairs in Bosnia, Yemen, Cameroon, Guatemala and Burundi before coming to the matter in which, as he knew perfectly well, we were all chiefly interested.

This was that the British ambassador, Sir Andrew Wood, had been summoned by the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Sergei Krylov, to receive a "strong protest" about the activities of some of his diplomats. Mr Karasin refused to confirm Russian news reports, quoting the Federal Security Service (formerly the KGB), that nine British diplomats would be packing their bags.

The row is one of the worst since Mikhail Gorbachev melted the international ice with his policies of "perestroika" and "glasnost" in the late 1980s and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 finally brought the Cold War to an end. Before

that, "tit-for-tat" was a game played regularly between East and West and expulsion was an alleged spy was an occupational hazard for any foreigner.

Veteran journalists at the briefing were slightly nervous because they knew that if the latest row widened, correspondents as well as diplomats could be declared *persona non grata* and ordered out.

That nightmare befell Alan Philips, now correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph*, back in 1985. He had just started a posting for Reuters news agency, when the Russian traitor, Oleg Gordievsky, defected to Britain and exposed a network of Soviet spies, prompting the expulsion of 25 Russians from London. Moscow retaliated by expelling the same number of British representatives here.

"I was called to the embassy and they showed me a list," said Mr Philips. "There were 25 names of diplomats, businessmen and journalists, and mine was one of them. I was given three weeks to leave because the Russians had been given the same. We packed up and went out through Finland. Interdean [a firm of international movers] was very busy."

Expulsion can ruin the career of someone who has spent years learning the language so as to specialise in Russian affairs. Mr Philips said he regretted having missed the Gorbachev years. Russian officials acknowledged to him in private that he was innocent and he was allowed back to Moscow on a trip in 1990 and permanently in 1994.

Under President Boris Yeltsin, diplomats, journalists and businessmen have breathed more easily. Once confined to Moscow, unless they gave advance notice of travel plans, and followed and bugged relentlessly by the KGB, they now move about freely and make open contacts with Russians in all walks of life.

The KGB was split up after the failed coup of August 1991 into the Foreign Intelligence Service and the Federal Security Service (FSB), which deals with domestic security. The FSB now concentrates on fighting organised crime and terrorism rather than persecuting dissidents and watching foreigners, as the KGB did.

However, although the statue of the founder of the KGB, Felix Dzerzhinsky, has been removed from outside the Lubyanka, Russian liberals fear that if dictatorship returned to their country, it would not be difficult for the secret police to revert to all their old methods.

Helen Womack

## Threat to breadbasket: US farmers watch land turn to dust and prices plummet



Actor Bill Paxton watches a scene from the film 'Twister', which opened in the US this week. Tornadoes often rip across the Plains. Photograph: Reuters

## Spectre of drought haunts Plains

RUPERT CORNWELL  
Washington

First the good news. Across much of the Plains it has been raining of late – not in time to salvage what the US Agriculture Department said yesterday would be the poorest winter wheat crop in 18 years, but enough to raise hopes that the autumn harvest of 1996 might be halfway decent.

True, much of the rain has come in blasting storms, and down south in Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle conditions are still dire. But Nebraska and parts of Kansas have had those gentle, soaking downpours that are the only real medicine for

dried out land. In the markets of Kansas City and Chicago, wheat and corn futures prices have fallen after topping \$6 (£4) a bushel for the first time since the mid-1970s. Even so, an old spectre once again is stalking the American grainbelt.

The Great Plains, stretching 1,300 miles from Texas to the Canadian border and 500 miles or more from east to west, may be the planet's breadbasket. They are also home to some of the most savage weather extremes on earth: bitter cold, storms, searing winds and killer tornadoes, flash floods and heatwaves. Most important, yet often forgotten, is that the Plains' western portion between the

100th meridian and the Rockies is steppeland verging on semi-desert. And the historic scourge of such parts is drought.

According to some meteorologists, the Plains can expect a period of drought roughly every 20 years, based on a cycle of sunspots and ocean currents. Through most of this century the formula has held: the Dustbowl of the 1930s, the scarcely less ruinous drought between 1952 and 1957, and a smaller visitation in the 1970s. Slightly out of sequence, 1988 also witnessed an exceptional drought. But now the 20-year marker has come around again, and the Plains folk are worried.

A repeat of the Dustbowl is

unlikely, if only because land management techniques have improved. A similar drought may occur – but never again will overploughing and over-use allow millions of tons of topsoil to be sandblasted away by the winds. Even so, the USDA recently reported that in Oklahoma 1.8 million acres, a greater area than in two decades, was vulnerable to serious wind erosion or, as local farmers put it, "ready to blow". There are other uncomfortable parallels too.

Nebraska has had its driest February since 1875, the Oklahoma panhandle its second driest winter since 1895, and until late April scarcely a drop of rain had fallen in parts of northern

Texas since October. Drought has turned swathes of Arizona and New Mexico cattlelands and forests into giant tinderboxes.

In the wheat belt, farmers have had to plough under shrivelled and useless wheat, either writing off the crop entirely or replanting with hardier but less valuable sorghum. Just this week, the USDA designated Oklahoma a "primary disaster area", making small farmers eligible for government-subsidised loans – the one barrier to a repeat of the 1930s when banks foreclosed on bankrupt family farms by the thousands.

But at last rain has come. Not just the farmbelt but much of the world is hoping it will last.

## Spanish state shivers as austerity cuts bite

ELIZABETH NASH  
Madrid

Spain's new conservative government yesterday approved a sweeping package of belt-tightening measures and privatisations that it says are necessary to keep the country on course for European monetary union in 1999.

It slimmed down the machinery of government by killing off some 80 departments and agencies, and pruning top administrative posts by a third.

The Vice-President and Economy Minister, Rodrigo Rato, nicknamed "Scissors hand", announced spending cuts of 200bn pesetas (£1bn). "We are imposing a rigorous policy of budget discipline," Mr Rato said after yesterday's cabinet meeting. "The government position is that Spain will and must meet the [European Union] convergence criteria."

The urban Mr Rato emerged as the steely nerved hero of two months of negotiations with the Catalan na-

tionalists in pursuit of a ruling pact. Austerity measures form a cornerstone of the deal and *pour encourager les autres* – Mr Rato has slashed his own ministerial staff by half. Details of the cuts will fall are to be worked out over coming weeks and presented to parliament.

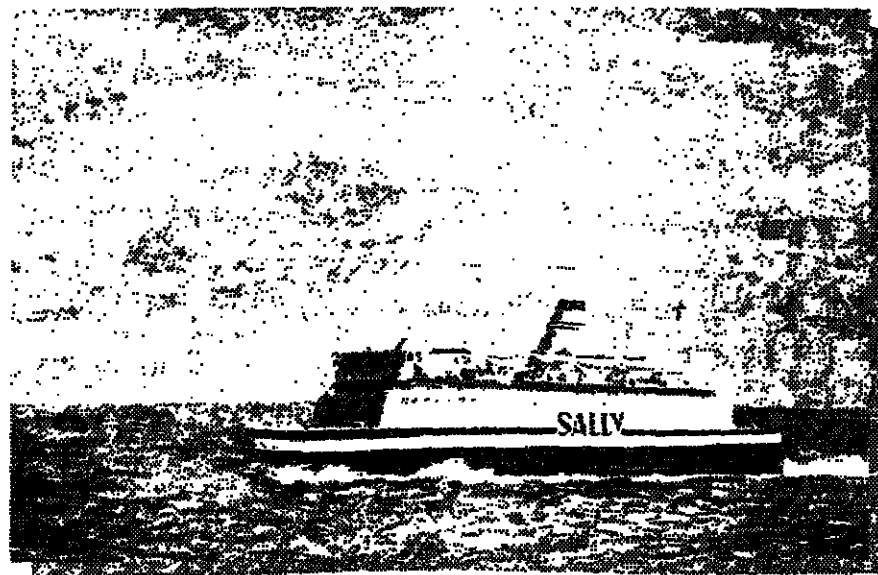
Mr Rato's measures sent an icy blast through the Spanish state bureaucracy, which the ruling Popular Party considers to have become unnecessarily bloated throughout 13 years of Socialist government, during

which employees in every other walk of life have grown accustomed to the rigours of "reconversion". Mr Rato, seeking to calm fears that already flagging economic growth could peter out under the impact of this latest blow, promised to introduce measures to encourage private investment.

The Industry Minister, Josep Pique, a Catalan entrepreneur, plans to accelerate the privatisation process launched by the previous government and to hive off as soon as possible all

public companies under his control. They include Iberia and Avianco airlines, Repsol petroleum company and the telecommunications group Telefonica. Mr Pique said these companies were a huge drain on state finances and there was no justification for maintaining them in the public sector.

To keep an eagle eye on cost-cutting, the government yesterday created a Budget Office answerable to the Prime Minister headed by Jose Barea, 73, an economics professor.



Self Portrait

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# Australia brings in tough new gun laws

ROBERT MILLIKEN  
Sydney

In the wake of public outrage after the massacre of 35 people in Tasmania a fortnight ago, Australia's federal and state governments yesterday signed an agreement that will give Australia one of the world's toughest sets of rules on gun ownership.

Campaigners for gun control hailed the deal as a historic breakthrough, but the gun lobby said it would drive gun ownership underground and do little to stop future massacres.

After a marathon meeting of federal and state police ministers in Canberra, John Howard, the Prime Minister, announced a ban on the import, sale, possession, manufacture and use of military-style self-loading shotguns. Such weapons were used in the massacre in Port Arthur on 28 April and in mass shoot-

for those who hand in guns that are to be outlawed.

No one knows how many guns there are in Australia. Estimates range from 4 million to 10 million, roughly one for every two-to-five Australians. Mr Howard said the amnesty may involve "hundreds of thousands" of guns being surrendered.

By any standards, yesterday's agreement was a remarkable success for Mr Howard, coming two months after his election.

Gun laws have been the individual province of Australia's six states, which have always resented Canberra's intrusion on their powers. Tasmania, Queensland and New South Wales had failed to tighten their laws after earlier massacres, allowing semi-automatic weapons to continue to circulate.

But such was the overwhelming sense of public shock after the Port Arthur killings, with opinion polls showing 95 per cent of Australians calling for tougher laws, that the state governments yesterday were left with no choice than to agree to Mr Howard's plan for national rules. As the ministers met, 35 people representing the Port Arthur victims stood silently outside Parliament House holding placards demanding change.

"This is a historic day," Mr Howard said. "It means that this country, through its governments, has decided not to go down the American path. It has decided to go down another path." Rebecca Peters, secretary of the Australian Coalition for Gun Control, described the outcome as a "good result", but criticised the exception for farmers, on semi-automatic weapons.

The question remains whether the new rules will effectively attack the gun culture, or open up a black market for weapons among owners who refuse to register or surrender them.

The gun lobby, which has spent millions campaigning in state politics in recent years, appears to have been crushed by yesterday's decision. John Tingle, an MP for the Shooters' Party in the New South Wales state parliament, said: "Only 15 per cent of people who own guns in this state have licences. They're not likely to register them now. This move won't lower the number of guns."

"This is a historic day. The country has decided not to go down the American path."

ings in Sydney and Melbourne in 1989 and 1991, which left a total of 56 people dead and 48 injured.

The only exception to the ban on semi-automatic weapons will be for farmers, who must satisfy police of a genuine need not met by less lethal weapons. Some state governments had campaigned for a farmers' exception, arguing that they needed such rapid-fire guns to control wild buffalo, donkeys, pigs and other non-indigenous species which breed rapidly in the outback and are officially classified as pests.

There will also be a new integrated, national gun registration scheme and a licensing system that imposes tougher tests on those deemed fit and proper to have access to guns. Mr Howard announced a six-month amnesty for the surrender of weapons, and a compensation scheme, possibly funded by a levy on taxpayers,



Orange order: A military policeman watches as Buddhist monks in south-east Cambodia set out on a march for peace. The 24-day walk for national reconciliation is being led by Cambodia's Supreme Patriarch, Maha Ghosananda, as Khmer Rouge rebels continue to disrupt the country with guerrilla warfare

Photograph: AFP

## Red carpet for Sir Leon, the man Japan likes to do business with

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY  
Tokyo

When Sir Leon Brittan visits Tokyo, he is accustomed to getting the red carpet treatment. Take, for example, his last major visit, in June last year. Its purpose was businesslike enough – the finalising of an agreement on Japanese imports of European cars – but in many ways it looked more like a visit by a lesser head of state than a vice president of the European Commission.

Apart from chummy chats with the Prime Minister, Sir Leon had a range of high-profile business meetings, and even an audience with Emperor Akihito. Japanese bureaucrats were effusive in their praise of their visitor, and precise in their comparisons.

Sir Leon's current visit to Tokyo, at the head of a delegation of European businessmen, is not such a glittering occasion. But the magic which made him such a hit last summer is still there. Japanese politicians, their bureaucrats and business leaders, love Sir Leon for a very simple reason: he is not American.

Tokyo's relations with the western world are often described in terms of a triangle, with Japan, the US and Europe at its respective points. Between the US and Japan, the line is thick, if uneven – combined trade between the two countries came to \$183bn in



Sir Leon Brittan: Advocate of compromise in trade

1995, and bilateral relations are further stiffened by the crucial US-Japan security treaty. The fly in the ointment is Japan's perennial trade surplus. Even after the year's rise last year dramatically escalated the price of Japanese exports, Tokyo was still selling \$43bn more to the US than it bought.

The Europe-Japan line is weaker – total trade with the EU last year came to \$128bn. But, superficially at least, Tokyo's relationship with the EU has a warmth and cordiality never seen in trade talks with Washington.

The two sides have their own reasons for keeping things this way. The Europeans, for their part, know that they have a huge amount of catching up to do in their dealings with east Asia, the fastest growing trade region in the world, and one of the most

unpredictable in terms of security and politics. The Japanese, on the other hand, hold up the EU's approach as a textbook example of the gentle, civilised and consensus way they like to do business – in contrast with the rough, confrontational approach adopted by the US.

This was illustrated at the time of Sir Leon's visit last year. The Americans, led by Mickey Kantor, were threatening punitive tariffs on Japanese car imports unless Tokyo agreed to specific targets for imports of US cars and parts. A face-saving compromise was formulated at the last minute, but the EU's mild approach – persuading Japan to sign up to a European agreement on automobile regulations – was a stark contrast and a source of great relief to Tokyo. Hence the red carpet unrolled for Sir Leon.

For Europe, such an approach is a political necessity.

As a twitchy alliance of often fractious member countries, it can never match the political and economic punch wielded by the US government. But rather than simply making the best of a bad job, officials speak of the EU approach to trade disputes, based on the multilateral arbitration of the World Trade Organisation, as something akin to an ideology. "We must give priority to multilateral solutions," said Sir Leon in March. "Cosy deals between a few key players are no longer enough."

Privately, European diplomats acknowledge that the US approach is useful. "Because the Americans are there waving their big stick, it improves the chances of Japan helping us," says one. "If we were all non-confrontational, they'd be less likely to come to the negotiating table." Sir Leon would not admit it, but Europe's Mr Nice needs America's Mr Nasty.

## De Klerk takes stand on 'morals'

Johannesburg (Reuters) — The outgoing Deputy President, FW de Klerk, warned President Nelson Mandela yesterday that his National Party would act in opposition as the guardian of economic discipline and morals in post-apartheid South Africa.

The new post-apartheid constitution adopted on Wednesday, which caused his white-led party to announce its early withdrawal from Mr Mandela's transitional coalition government, lacked commitment both to fiscal discipline and moral values, Mr de Klerk said.

"It does not show enough appreciation that fiscal discipline and macro-economic stability are the keys to strong capital-account investment [and] sustained growth," he said.

On issues which affect all South Africans, such as our moral and ethical basis, we are also deeply disturbed by some aspects of the new constitution," he said.

The National Party voted for the new constitution, which completes the transition from white rule to democracy, but announced two days later that it would leave the transitional coalition on 30 June.

Mr de Klerk said the NP, which will be out of government for the first time in nearly half a century, would push for privatisation and the quick dismantling of remaining foreign exchange controls restricting local residents and business.

"We believe that we should, in a dynamic way, walk the road of privatisation... We're taking too long," he said.

He said that his party also would oppose the right to abortion and the abolition of the death penalty.

The NP secretary-general, Roelf Meyer, said the party had decided to pull out of the government because its views on economic management were being ignored.

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## Liberian refugees stranded at sea

Abidjan (Reuters) — Thousands of Liberian civil war refugees on an old freighter faced uncertainty at sea yesterday as Ivory Coast rejected appeals to take them in.

Ivory Coast said about half the estimated 4,000 people on the Bulk Challenge were guerrillas and forced the Nigerian freighter back to sea from San Pedro port after urgent repairs. Ghana prepared to receive the refugees but the exact position of the vessel was unclear 12 hours after it put to sea. Port officials in Ghana said they were expecting the vessel in Tema, near Accra, but had had no word from the captain since he put to sea. "We have had no word. I have just spoken to the control room and there is no word," ports authority spokesman Anthony Cudjoe said, adding that the vessel, Bulk Challenge, may have anchored at sea with further problems.

The Interior Minister, Emile Bombet, defended the decision to force the vessel to leave San Pedro port on Thursday night, two days after it limped to port with two metres of water in the hold. "There are 2,065 people on the boat who are rebels," he said, adding that there was no question of allowing the passengers to disembark at any Ivorian port. He added that the United States was putting pressure on his government to accept the passengers, ignoring that Ivory Coast already hosted more than 300,000 Liberian war refugees. The Ghanaian representative of the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR said arrangements had been completed to receive the refugees.

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**Asylum seekers:** Local political parties condemn violent protest against deportations as thousands run amok

## Rioting boat people on run in Hong Kong

STEPHEN VINES  
Hong Kong

The most damaging outbreak of rioting in a detention centre for Vietnamese boat people erupted yesterday, leading to a mass breakout, police retaliation and a strengthening of political will both to deport the Vietnamese and pass legislation which allows indefinite detention of ethnic Chinese asylum seekers who are barred from returning home.

The riot, involving thousands of men, women and children at the Whitehead detention centre, started before dawn as part of a protest to prevent the deportation of 900 inmates. By the time order was restored later in the day a 2,000-strong anti-riot squad had fired 1,800 rounds of tear gas, 26 huts were burnt down or damaged, including one storing the records of those about to be deported, and 53 vehicles were damaged. Road blocks were set up to catch an estimated 150 inmates still at large after the riot.

Despite fallout from tear gas being so intense that nearby vil-

lages had to be evacuated, and raging fires throughout the camp, the authorities claimed that no serious injuries had been sustained. Police and prison officers were attacked with home made spears and other weapons.

Supporters of the boat people outside the camps say that the situation inside is becoming increasingly desperate as an accelerated programme of deportations gets underway and China warns that it will not tolerate the presence of boat people in Hong Kong after it resumes sovereignty next year. China's insistence on total clearance of the camps was reinforced yesterday by Zhang Junsheng, a vice-director of the New China News Agency, Peking's *de facto* embassy in the colony. Mr Zhang blamed Britain for allowing the boat people to come to Hong Kong in the first place and not making sufficient efforts to resolve the problem.

Local political parties rushed to condemn the violence. The Democratic Party, which has



Confrontation: Police round up Vietnamese boat people in front of burnt buildings at Whitehead detention centre yesterday. Photograph: Reuters

human rights issues as the centrepiece of its campaigns, was as vociferous as other parties in rushing to criticise the Vietnamese. Its spokesman, Albert Ho, said the authorities must "bring those responsible to justice".

Anson Chan, the acting governor, described the actions of the Vietnamese as "deplorable

behaviour which we will not tolerate". She stressed the government remained "as determined as ever to repatriate all Vietnamese migrants to Vietnam as soon as possible".

Hong Kong is not alone in acting on an international agreement to achieve the repatriation of all non-refugee Vietnam boat people within a year.

There were anguished struggles against deportation in Malaysia yesterday. However Hong Kong has the largest population of remaining asylum seekers. Almost 18,000 Vietnamese are in Hong Kong camps.

Compassion for the Vietnamese was exhausted years ago. Now they are seen as a costly burden who have no

business to be in the colony.

The few supporters of the Vietnamese tend not to be Chinese. Robert Brook, a spokesman for Refugee Concern, said yesterday that he did not condone violence but asked for understanding that most of the inmates are "ordinary people frustrated at the way they are treated".

Legislators yesterday agreed to bring forward laws which would overturn the effect of a Privy Council ruling forcing the Hong Kong government to free Vietnamese who have been denied permission to return because of their ethnic Chinese background which, according to Hanoi, makes them citizens of another country.

## 'Murder' link to Slovak kidnap inquiry

ADRIAN BRIDGE  
Central Europe Correspondent

As though an unresolved dispute about the kidnapping of the President's son were not enough, Slovakia has now been plunged into another controversy concerning the mysterious death of a former policeman who played a key role in the kidnap investigation.

Robert Remias, 26, died last month after his car burst into flames on the outskirts of Bratislava. Within hours of the incident, government officials insisted that it had been an accident. Opposition figures, however, cried foul play. And ever since, two parallel investigations have been under way, with each seeking to discredit the findings of the other.

Jan Carnogursky, leader of the opposition Christian Democrats, said he was convinced Remias had been murdered, claiming that the official autopsy revealed that a bullet had been found in the body of the victim.

Police investigators working on the official probe conceded that a piece of metal resembling a bullet had been found in the body - but they continued to deny the involvement of any third party.

Before his death, Remias was the key link between the opposition and Oskar Fegyveres, a former Slovak Intelligence Service officer who claims the SIS had assisted in last year's kidnapping of Michal Kovac junior, the son of Slovak President, Michal Kovac.

Mr Kovac junior was kidnapped outside Bratislava last August, driven across the border with Austria and dumped.

The opposition maintains that the kidnapping was part of a feud between President Kovac and the Prime Minister, Vladimir Meciar. But investigators into the Kovac case discounted the testimony of Mr Fegyveres who, fearing for his safety, has gone into exile.

Given his link with the former SIS officer, the opposition says there was a political motive for getting rid of Remias. Mr Meciar has slammed such assertions as unfounded.

## Qana dead 'a bunch of Arabs'

Jerusalem (Reuters) — Israeli gunners have said they had no regrets over killing more than 100 civilians sheltering in a United Nations base in southern Lebanon because the dead were "just a bunch of Arabs".

A soldier, identified as Sergeant Y, was quoted by the Jerusalem weekly *Kol Ha'ir* as saying: "It's a war, in a war these things happen... It's just a bunch of Arabs."

The sergeant, in his reference to Arabs, used the Hebrew derogatory term *Arabushim*,

which has no English equivalent.

The soldiers said they were firing at guerrillas near the UN camp at Qana and that it had been a mistake to hit the camp where hundreds of refugees were sheltering. The attack took place during Israel's operation against Hizbollah guerrillas last month.

A UN report this week said it appeared unlikely the slaughter was by accident. Israel, which has given varying versions of what happened, insists it

was a mistake. Another soldier from the artillery battery said the commander gathered his troops after the shelling for a talk.

"He told us, 'This is war. For God's sake, the *shits* are shooting at you. What are you going to do?' He said we were shooting well and to continue this way, and that Arabs, you know, there are millions of them."

An official army spokesman statement issued yesterday questioning the accuracy of the newspaper report.

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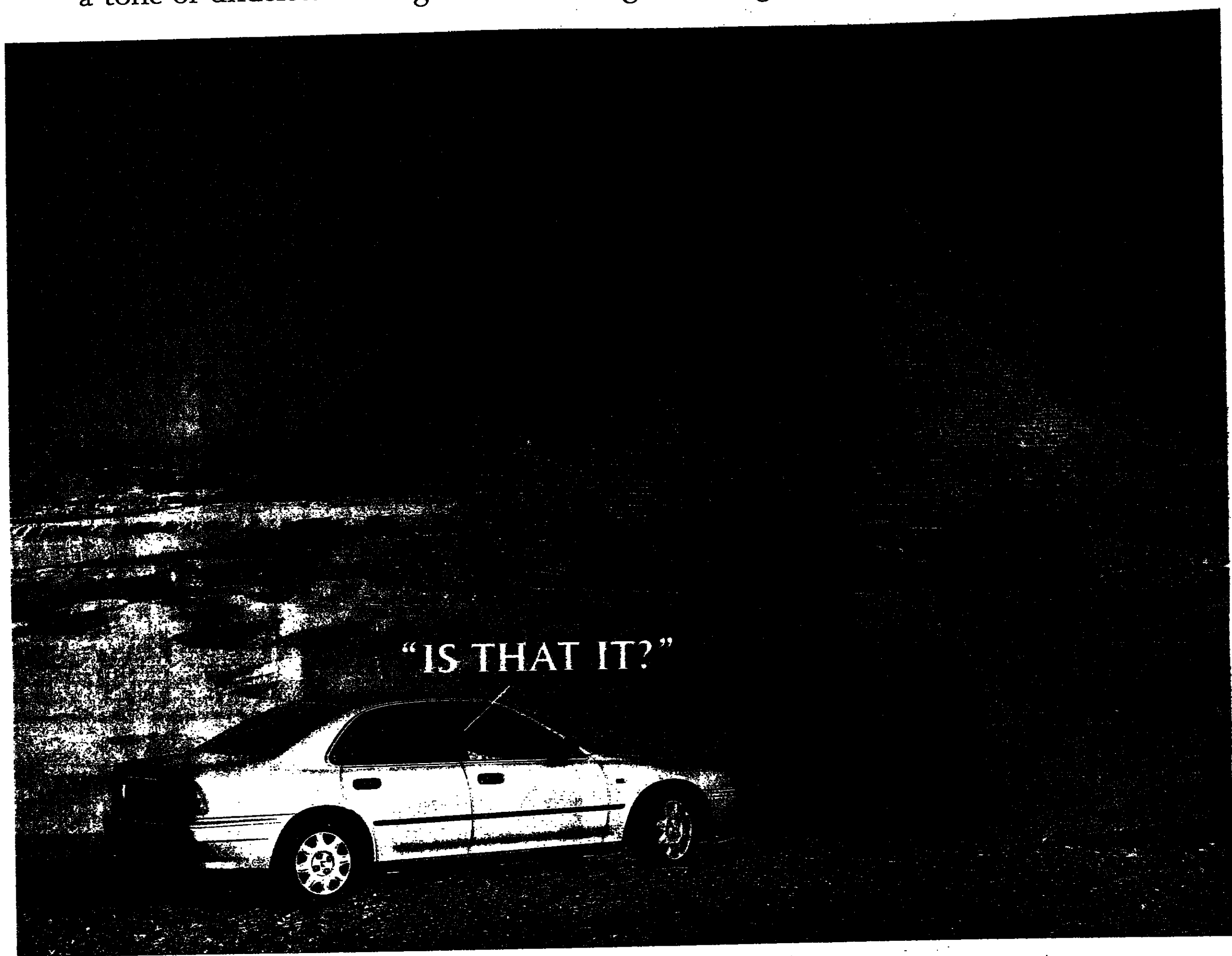
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## saturday story

English Catholics take pride in maintaining their public unity. But, says **Andrew Brown**, a bitter row about Derek Worlock, the late Archbishop of Liverpool, exposes deep divisions between liberals and traditionalists in Rome's dwindling flock

# This man's death could lead to a Catholic civil war

"The Catholic church in this country has two parties," says an insider. "There is the lesbian-nun-PC-right-on group; then there are the complete Pope-fetishists. And the two groups really hate each other." This is not the image of the church split between liberals and conservatives that either party would like to see propagated. Still less is it the picture of the Catholic church that Cardinal Hume or most churchgoers would recognise. But it has been sharply drawn this past week. Until recently, English Catholics of all shades of opinion were congratulating themselves on having escaped the savage infighting that has plagued Catholic life in Germany and the United States, the two richest Catholic churches in the world. Last week may have changed this uneasy peace for good.

Alice Thomas Ellis, the novelist and former postulant nun, gave over her last column in the *Catholic Herald* to a bitter denunciation of the late Archbishop Derek Worlock of Liverpool. In one sense, this was not news: two years ago she published a book called *The Serpent on the Rock*, a rambling and rancorous attack on the modern Catholic church, whose title alludes to the idea of Satan in the bosom of St Peter (the rock, and purportedly the founder of papal authority). But the idea that these hostilities should be continued beyond the grave was new, as was the ferocity of her denunciation. Ms Thomas Ellis saw in Worlock the personification of all the tendencies towards banality, ecumenism and heresy that undermined the church of her youth. *The Catholic Herald*, edited by a caretaker in the absence of Cristina Odono, dithered over whether to run her column and afterwards regretted doing so. Today's issue carries an unprecedented front-page apology. This may be a storm in a teacup, but it is a storm whipped up by winds that are blowing through the whole Catholic church, both here and round the world.

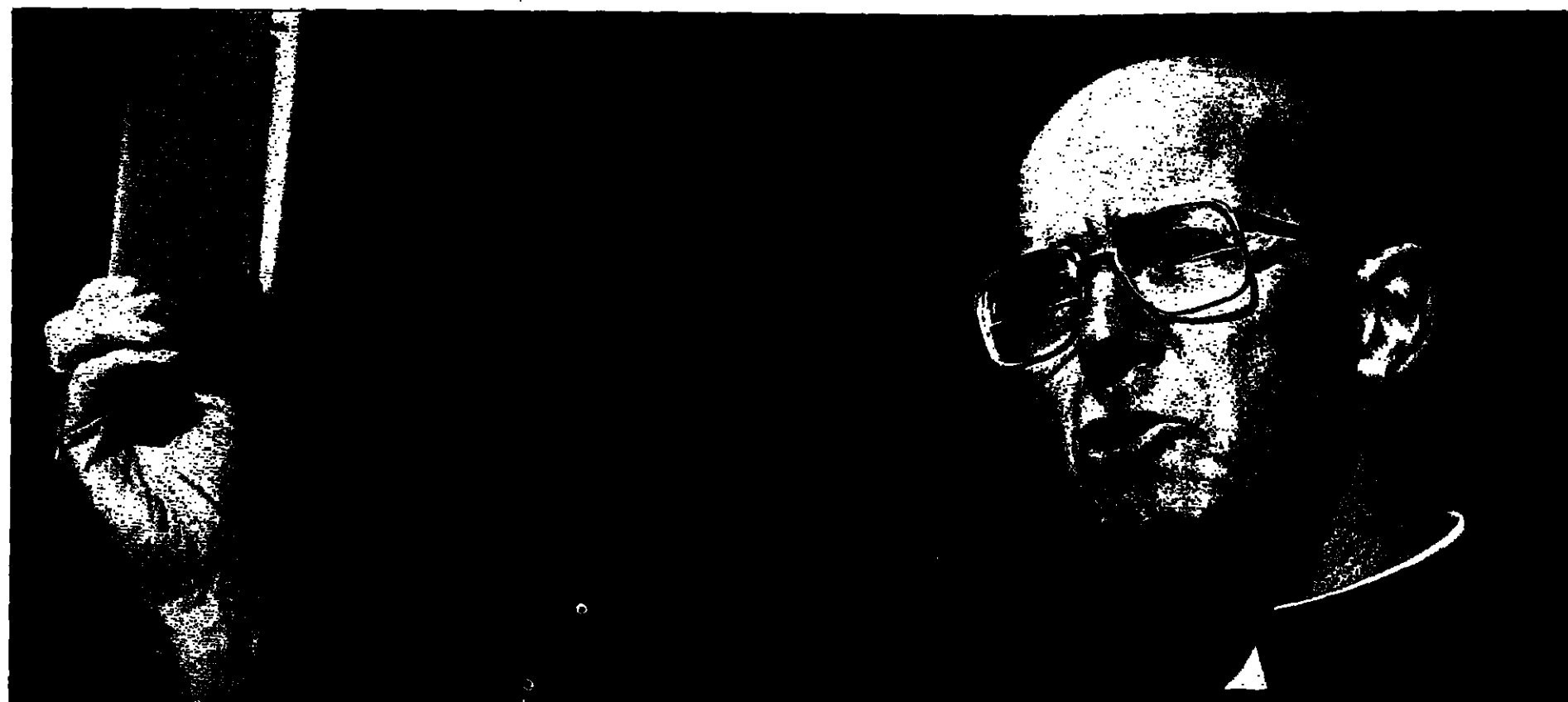
Worlock represented the spirit of the reforming Second Vatican Council, to both friends and enemies. The council, which met from 1961 to 1963, opened up the Catholic church to the democratic and optimistic spirit of the American century. It virtually ended the Latin Mass which had been in use

unchanged for centuries all round the world, replacing it with vernacular liturgies; it admitted that God might be found in non-Christian religions and especially in non-Catholic Christianity, and replaced the idea of the Church as an embattled fortress with that of the whole Church as "pilgrim people of God", wandering through the wilderness together.

But Worlock also symbolised a profound shift in the character of English Catholicism from a largely Irish, working-class body with a top-dressing of eccentric English aristocrats, into a church that fitted seamlessly into the English middle classes. And he did so as a consummate insider, which made his success that much harder for the representatives of the old order to bear. He was a convert's son, with 12 Anglican clergymen in his ancestry, who worked as private secretary to three successive cardinals before ever becoming a parish priest; and he was only a parish priest for 18 months before becoming Bishop of Portsmouth and then Archbishop of Liverpool.

Though he devoted himself to the cause of his new city, it is difficult to imagine anyone of less natural kinship or sympathy with brawling, Irish Liverpool Catholicism. A courteous, pallid, softly-spoken bureaucrat with an air of holiness, he was a man of tremendous administrative energy. His ecumenical partnership with David Sheppard, the Anglican bishop of the city, whom he had met when both were working in the East End, was tremendously exciting to Christians committed to ecumenism - a smaller proportion of the Church than they supposed themselves to be.

Worlock's whole career might be taken as a picture of the "Anglicanisation" of the Roman Catholic Church in the UK, culminating in the almost unprecedented award to him of a CH. This personal social acceptance went alongside the almost complete destruction of the traditional understanding of England as a Protestant monarchy and a deep schism in the Church of England over women priests. In one sense, Archbishop Worlock's career marked the greatest progress the English Catholic church had made since the period between 1828 and 1850. In



Archbishop Derek Worlock: once fêted, now said by conservatives to be the personification of banality, ecumenism and heresy

other respects, however, the period was disastrous.

We have grown so used to the noise of largely Catholic commentators pointing out the decline of the Church of England over the past few decades that it is easy to overlook the catastrophic slide in Catholic

to 1.9 million. As for vocations, in 1994, the last year for which figures are available, four men from Liverpool presented themselves for training to the priesthood, and two women enrolled as nuns, out of a total, for the whole country, of 137 priests and nuns. Catholic figures show a decline in Mass attendance in Liverpool of 25 per cent over the past five years, compared with a national average of around 11 per cent.

The explanations for this are partly sexual and partly sociological. They are not unique to England. Around 100,000 priests left the Catholic Church worldwide in the 20 years after Vatican II; most to get married. The great liberal hopes of the Second Vatican Council were first dashed in earnest in 1968, when Pope Paul VI decided, against the advice of almost everyone except Cardinal Wojtyla (who is now Pope John Paul II) to renew the Church's ban on artificial contraception. The Catholic middle classes here, and round the world, have simply rejected that decision: Catholic birth rates are indistinguishable from those of non-

Catholics. So, too, is the divorce rate among English Catholics.

The response of the hierarchy, under Cardinal Hume and Derek Worlock, has been to keep these troubles within the family. They have perfected a coded language which sounds utterly faithful to the Roman line, but at the same time allows a cheering latitude to individual conscience.

The trouble is that the family is no longer as cohesive as it was. The dissolution of traditional English anti-Catholicism removed much of the external pressure for loyalty. And the absorption of large numbers of former Anglicans - perhaps 250 will become Catholic priests, if the money can be found to pay for them - is causing a degree of indigestion in the body of the church. These men have brought with them not only a dream of Catholicism rather alien to that held by most Catholics, but also a habit of wrangling and indulging in factional politics.

One of the most important ex-Anglican converts is Dr William Oddie, who was one of the speakers last Saturday at a

conference organised by the small right-wing pressure group Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, which was also addressed by Cardinal Hume. Pro Ecclesia brought 2,000 people from around the UK to hear an American televangelist nun, Mother Angelica, declare that "we have

**The hierarchy allows a cheering latitude to individual conscience**

fought for 30 years" against liberalism, and proclaim: "We have already won a victory, but we are too tired to see it."

The meeting passed four resolutions which, in essence, called for the church to purge itself. The third resolution ran: "We humbly implore... that anyone who is known to dissent from Church teaching on Faith and Morals be removed from sensitive positions in Church

Administration, Catholic Education, or any other advisory or counselling capacity; and not be invited to address official Catholic groups."

These resolutions came as an unpleasant shock to the Cardinal, who announced that they changed the meeting from a celebration into a campaign, and that he must dissociate himself from that aspect of it. Though his speech was, as always in public, precise rather than vehement, his clear message was that he would not tolerate an organised lobby of this sort. Certainly, a purge such as Pro Ecclesia would like to see is quite unthinkable in the present circumstances of the Catholic church. If rejection of Humanae Vitae and Veritatis Splendor (Pope John Paul II's great blast against dissenting Catholic intellectuals) amounts to dissent from the Church's teaching on Faith and Morals, then there would hardly be a Catholic theologian, priest, or even bishop left in this country. For the moment, none of this matters. The storm remains within its teacup. The next crucial decision will come when

Derek Worlock's successor in Liverpool is announced. There is one outstanding candidate in the tradition of Worlock and Hume: Vincent Nichols, one of Hume's auxiliary bishops in Westminster and a former secretary of the bishops' conference. He is a subtle and far-sighted diplomat, whose only flaw, in the minds of his supporters, is that if he gets Liverpool, he will be ineligible for Westminster when Hume retires, sometime in the next few years. Rome chooses between three names, submitted not by the bishops' conference but by the Papal Nuncio, the Pope's personal ambassador to Britain. Everyone assumes that Bishop Nichols's name is one of the three; reports apparently emanating from the Nuncio's office suggest that Rome has asked for more information on all three candidates. Until this week, the right-wing candidate, Francis Marsden, a Liverpool parish priest who led an agitation against an RE course that horrified traditionalists, was not being taken seriously by the mainstream. Now, perhaps, he is.

## Jo Brand's week

I have long been searching for a Rupert Murdoch underpants story and during my final few days in Australia I found it. After the tour, we hired a boat in the Whitsunday Islands, so called because James Cook discovered them on that day (despite the fact that the Aborigines had been there for thousands of years). One of the Whitsunday Islands is called Hayman Island, and contains a resort for the world's playboys and superstars. (No, we didn't go there, we sailed wistfully past in the boating equivalent of a south London bedsit.) All the locals in Airlie Beach, the nearest town, don't half like a good gossip about it, which led to story about Rupert Murdoch (left). Apparently last time he was there, he forgot to bring any underpants with him. Slightly unusual behaviour for one of the world's leading media moguls, I think. A helicopter was immediately despatched to Airlie to purchase said articles, but being a bit of a one-horse town, the available merchandise was not to Mr Murdoch's taste. So underwear was flown from one of the big cities and his bits were secured in whichever post he likes to wear. I admit that on one or two occasions I have phoned my local cab firm for fags in the middle of the night, but never have I sent a helicopter forth for snails. That is big time.



A survey of Glasgow minicab drivers found that over half of them had criminal records, including convictions for rape and murder. How very reassuring for women who have forked out for a cab, rather than risk the dangers of late-night buses or tubes. I have in the past noticed that the driving skills of minicab employees are criminal, but it never occurred to me that so many could back it up with an actual criminal record. It seems like the only feasible mode of transport in the future is going to be a tank. Then again, a soldier would have to drive the bloody thing and you know what they're like.

Speaking of soldiers, it seems you can now buy top-secret military training videos from car boot sales. It will make a change from porn or bootleg Disney, I suppose. It appears

that these days anything marked "Top Secret" cannot help but find its way into the public domain, be it on a rubbish tip or at a jumble. Think I'll pop down to my local depot and see if I can't find a bit of evidence on the Westminster gerrymandering scandal.

I saw a very odd photograph in the *Daily Mail* this week. It was what appeared to be a grown-up woman's head superimposed on the emaciated body of a beardless nine-year-old girl. With amazement, I realised that the head did actually belong to the body. This was Rachel Kirby, the 12-year-old model whose star is set to be catapulted into the supermodel galaxy. There seems to be some disagreement about the future of her career because of her age. Her parents deny that they want to put a stop to it, although the model agency



say they have put it on hold until she is a more appropriate age. That would be 13 then, probably. Perhaps it would be better to wait until she is somewhat more developed in the body area. No point waiting for the brain to develop, not by the evidence of the other mob of supermodels anyway.



The backlash in Hollywood against sex and violence in films is gathering pace with a contribution from old smoothie-chops himself, Roger Moore. He remarks that he was horrified on his last Bond film, *A View To A Kill* (above) and harks back to the days of the *Brief Encounter*-type kiss, where one didn't have to watch "yards of tongues going down throats". He thinks actors are opening their mouths so wide that you can see what they had for breakfast. I'm not so sure that technique is particularly important, but I have certainly always

found Bond films distasteful for their portrayal of women as "things" to be conquered, who do not have an independent thought in their head. On the violence front, Bond films have never been exactly peaceful affairs. Sex and violence are indeed more graphic these days, but they were always there. Perhaps what is more important about the standard of Hollywood films is their banality, stereotyping and lack of wit - which brings us back to Bond films again.

Teenage boys in Finland are learning about responsible sex by playing a board game called *Making Babies*, which attempts to make them see that there is more to sex than boasting about it the next day. A throw of the dice may give them morning sickness or a bad back, as they are as likely as the girls in the game to get pregnant. This sounds like a good idea to me, and could be expanded and shipped over here. How about a game called *Respecting Girls or Not Being A Bully?*

How dreadful that my alma mater, the concrete jungle that is Brunel University in Uxbridge, has awarded Margaret Thatcher an honorary degree. Within a few miles of Heathrow Airport and resembling a desolate council estate, Brunel University has the dubious honour of having been used in the film *Clockwork Orange*, at the beginning, when a tramp is kicked to death by Alex and his droogs. Perhaps it is appropriate for Lady Thatcher, then. Students at Brunel have threatened to protest, although the union president has remarked that it is unlikely they will ruin the day for themselves and everyone else. This is how I remember the place... about as radical as a tea towel. This may well have been because it offers only science subjects and arts are non-existent. Something the Tories have been striving for for years.

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## obituaries / gazette

## Morris Leigh

When Meyer Weisgal, the legendary fundraiser for the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, was asked how he managed to extract millions from hard-headed American millionaires, he replied: "I offer them immortality." Morris Leigh did not seek plaques and halls bearing his name to persuade him to help worthy causes. He was one of the Anglo-Jewish community's most liberal and enthusiastic as well as discriminating financial donors.

The welfare and educational services offered by the Jewish community, though far from perfect, are the envy of many other communities. It is men like Morris Leigh, closely following the fine Jewish tradition of compassion and charity, who made this a reality.

His support extended to artistic and educational causes not only in this country but in Israel, all performed with signal modesty and a quiet determination. It was these qualities which won him the admiration of such diverse personalities as Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks and Sir Sigmund Sternberg.

Morris Leigh's background gives a strong clue to his character. He was born in east London, the son of a woodcarver of modest means. He became a pupil at the famous Jews' Free School at Spitalfields, where he was considered outstanding, but left at the age of 15.

Joining his father's business, he showed unusual abilities and helped to transform it. When only 23 he built a factory in Tottenham which employed 300 people. It succeeded because he insisted on using the best machinery then available, as well as being a shrewd, determined and hard-working businessman in a highly competitive industry. Sterling Furniture deserved its high national reputation.

With the advent of the Second World War the factory was requisitioned for important war tasks. At the end of the war in 1945, Leigh joined the Allied Control Commission in Germany to advise the British Government on revitalising what remained of the German furniture and timber industries.

On returning to civilian life, Leigh rebuilt his factory and again produced successful and generally admired furniture. However, in 1957 he entered a new field.

Seeking to obtain a role in the housing programme he established Sterling Homes, constructing and selling hundreds of houses in the south of England. Sterling Homes later expanded into Allied London Properties, which Leigh headed as chairman and, after retirement, as Life President, until well into his eighties.

The furniture trade, and the friends he made in it, never ceased to have a special place in Leigh's affections. He was immensely delighted and proud when elected Master of the Livery of the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers in 1988. Seen as a man of sound judgement, he was also elected president of the Furniture Trade Benevolent Association.

In his philanthropic work his benefactions included music and the arts in Britain and Israel. He endowed scholarships within the Furniture Guild and

the Jews' Free School. For decades he was a important backer of the Tel Aviv University who awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1982, a gesture which he much appreciated. He had hoped to participate next month in the dedication of the Manja and Morris Leigh Avenue at the university.

The Royal College of Music, the Institute of Jewish Affairs, the Tel Aviv Foundation, the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra all had reason to be grateful to him. He was unstinting in his support for the Home of Aged Jews. His natural sense of humour was evident both in his business and philanthropic work.

Joseph Finklestone

Morris Leigh enjoyed a long, varied and successful life, writes Sir Frank Layfield. The remarkable range of qualities and skills he displayed throughout his life became apparent and admired from an early age. The energy, determination and acumen seen then he was to

carry into other fields for the remainder of his life.

His enthusiasm and dedication in business was only one section of the extensive and remarkable range of Morris Leigh's varied interests. His energies were almost equally deployed in his philanthropic excursions, to which he devoted outstanding personal commitment.

His life-long philanthropic work showed his concern for a wide range of those in need of help and encouragement, in both the public and private aspects of life in Britain and in Israel. In the first of his interests, the furniture trade, he showed his desire to ensure that education in that field was encouraged and supported by the endowment of scholarships. His love of music led him to contribute handsomely to the Royal School of Music and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

Morris Leigh was an admirable, kind and generous man, but above all a man of the most humorous disposition and of an endearing kind. Those who worked with or for him

recognised his integrity and fairness of mind. Those of us who were fortunate to be among his friends were perhaps best placed to appreciate that to his great public qualities must be added those of an engaging modesty, shyness, sympathy and understanding of all those he met. His desire to help and encourage others wherever he could was exceptional.

The witnesses to all these attributes are the astonishing number, variety and levels of his friends in all parts of the world, by whom he will be greatly missed. He is survived by his second wife, Manja, and a son and daughter by his first marriage.

A memorial service for Morris Leigh will be held on 8 July at the Central Synagogue, Great Portland Street, London W1.



Leigh: the fine Jewish tradition of charity Drawing by Paul Benney

## Births, Marriages &amp; Deaths

## DEATHS

**COURTES:** On 2 May 1996, Ella Courts, née Meyer, born Ober-Ingelheim-am-Rhein on 18 August 1908, passed away. Her warm and generous nature, breadth of interests, but independence of mind is and will be intensely missed by her husband Ben, daughter-in-law Miriam, son Hugh and very many family and friends.

**Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS** (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

**OTHER** Gazette announcements (weddings, funerals, Birthdays, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

## Birthdays

**TODAY:** Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Anson, 67; Sir Edgar Beck, president, John Mowlem, 85; Lady Rachel Billington, writer, 54; Sir Rhodes Boyson MP, 71; Mr Eric Burdon, rock musician, 55; Professor Michael Hamlin, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Dundee University, 66; Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman, Racial Electronics, 70; Professor Antony Hewish, radio astronomer, 72; Sir Anthony Hollis, High Court judge, 69; Sir Robert Hunt, former chairman, Dowry, 78; Sir Gordon Langley, High Court judge, 53; Brigadier John Moriarty, former astro-in-chief, Army Nursing Services, 73; Mr John Parrott, snooker player, 32; Mr Jeremy Paxman, television presenter and reporter, 46; Sir Ian Perchal QC, former Solicitor-General, 75; Mr Ian Redpath, cricketer, 55; Miss Natasha Richardson, actress, 33; Mr Mort Sahl, comedian, 69; Mr Mike Slemmon, rugby player, 45; Miss Judith Weir, composer, 42; The Hon Montague Woodhouse, historian, 79.

**TOMORROW:** Mr Burt Bacharach, composer, 67; Mr Alan Ball, football manager, 51; Mr Dominic Cadbury, chairman, Cadbury Schweppes, 56; Sir Cyril Chantler, Principal, United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals, 57; Mr Michael Coates, former chairman, Price Waterhouse, 72; Mr John Floyd, auctioneer, 73; Miss Susan Hampshire, actress, 54; Mr Nicky Henson, actor, 51; Mr Henry Hodson, former Editor, the *Annual Register*, 90; The Earl of Kimberley, member of the House of Lords Defence Study Group, 72; Lord Laing of Dumphall, life president, United Biscuits, 73; Mr Eric Lyall, chairman, Pearl Group, 72; Sir Roger Moore MP, 58; The Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, former Bishop of Birmingham, 76; Ms Jenni Murray, broadcaster, 46; Mr Chris Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, 52; Miss Rosalind Savill, Director, the Wallace Collection, 45; Mr Frederick Smithies, schoolteacher and trade union leader, 67; Dr Miriam Stoppard, writer and broadcaster, 59; Miss Deborah Warner, stage director, 37; Mr Steve Winwood, rock singer and composer, 48; Sir Paul Wright (Life Peer), former Head of the Diplomatic Service, 81.

## Anniversaries

**TODAY:** Births: Reginald Pole, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1500; Alfred Stevens, painter, 1836; Ottmar Mergenthaler, inventor of the Linotype machine, 1854; George Grosz, the Younger, actor, 1874; Irving Berlin (Israel Isadore Baline), 1888; Paul Nash, painter, 1889; Dame Margaret Rutherford, actress, 1893; William Grant Still, composer, 1895; Mikhail Alexandrovich Sholokhov, novelist, 1905. Deaths: Sir Edward Dyer, poet, buried 1607; Catharine Cockburn, playwright and author, 1749; William Pitt, first Earl of Chatham, statesman, 1778; Spencer Perceval, prime minister, assassinated in the House of Commons by John Bellingham, 1812; Tom

## Lectures

**TODAY** Victoria and Albert Museum: Sonnet Hersberg, "20th-century Furniture Design", 2.30pm.

**Tate Gallery:** Laurence Bradbury, "The Allure of Watercolour Paintings", 1pm.

**British Museum:** Simon James, "It ain't half cold Mum" - Roman soldiers at Vindolanda", 1.15pm.

**National Portrait Gallery:** Duncan Forbes, "Regicide and Andrew Marvel", 3pm.

## TOMORROW

**Tate Gallery:** Laurence Bradbury, "Art Redefined: Marcel Duchamp's legacy", 2.30pm.

**National Portrait Gallery:** Paul Webb, "Sir Donald Wolf", 3pm.

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, Patron, the Northern Lighthouse Board, today and tomorrow visits Fair Isle, Skua Point, Orkney and other Lighthouses in the Orkney archipelago. The Duke of Kent, President, accompanied by The Duchess of Kent, today attends the Football Association's Challenge Cup Final, at Wembley Stadium, Wembley, Middlesex.

## Changing of the Guard

**TODAY:** The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Irish Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards. **TOMORROW:** The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

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# The Independent Weekend



## Director's cut

David Puttnam on the  
genius of David Lean page 11

Photograph: Rex Features

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# picture story



Everton supporters celebrate Paul Rideout's goal that gave Everton victory over Manchester United in last year's FA Cup final



Two Manchester United fans secure entry to the 1994 Coca-Cola Cup final. Their efforts were rewarded with a 3-1 defeat to Aston Villa

## THEY KNOW IT'S ALL OVER

This afternoon, tens of thousands of Liverpool and Manchester United fans will converge on Wembley Stadium for the FA Cup final. Some of them will even get in. For the past five years, David Ahmed has joined the ticketless hordes condemned to an afternoon on the wrong side of the turnstiles. Here is his sorry report



Restricted view: Manchester United fans experience the vicarious agonies of watching the 1994 FA Cup final on a mini-TV screen. United romped to a 4-0 victory over Chelsea



Father and son take a packed lunch while inside the stadium their Leeds United side suffer an ignominious 3-0 defeat to Aston Villa in the Coca-Cola Cup final in March this year



A Manchester United fan sleeps off the 1-0 defeat handed out to his side by Everton last year, six days after they had lost the FA Premiership title to Blackburn Rovers



Manchester United fans on different sides of the turnstile at last year's FA Cup final

David Ahmed



# Once upon a time in the west

He's tried everything, from suicide to dope on the White House roof. At 63, the outlaw Willie Nelson is the epitome of 'what they started America for'. By Jasper Rees

Willie Nelson spent the evening of 29 April 1973 drinking whisky in 'Tootsie's Orchid Lounge', Nashville, staggered outside, lay down on the tarmac and waited for a passing car to end it all. There was plenty of snow on the road, but little in the way of automobiles. "I picked a night when the traffic was slow," says the failed suicide. "I hope I was smart enough to do that."

The morning after, he turned 40, a birthday by which most singers who are going to make it have already done so. On a heavier night for traffic, Nelson would have joined the already lengthy list of musicians gathered up somewhere near their prime. You'd have found his name near the bottom, in small print, way below his fellow Texan Buddy Holly, or Patsy Cline, who made his song "Crazy" famous. It's convenient, if not quite accurate, to date the birth of the Willie Nelson of legend to that night on the snowy, deserted asphalt. Actually, the troubadour had already begun roping a bandana round his brow and wearing his auburn hair down between his shoulder blades. But it's true that most of the income on which the Internal Revenue Service famously computed a tax shortfall of \$32m was earned after that half-hearted attempt to kill himself.

In the 1960s he made a tidy living from other crooners' polite recordings of his melancholy songs. In the 1970s he blithely reinvented country music, sang gospel, blues, Broadway tunes, and shifted more records than anyone in a hat had ever managed. He earned the tag of outlaw and haemorrhaged the money.

A few years ago there were signs of creative wilt, but then he hired Don Was, jumpstart producer to vintage stars with engine trouble, and came up with *Across the Borderline*. It was a stunning way to kick off his seventh decade, which may be his finest yet as he scratches away at the upper limit of what we regard as an acceptable age for productive rebellion. (The new album, *Spirit*, is another beauty.) Willie Nelson has been 63 for a fortnight. He has snow-white eyebrows and a ragged matching beard. The odd Delta bluesman may have been ploughing on for even longer, but no one who started out at the same time as Elvis Presley still pounds the circuit with quite such an air of not knowing what the hell else they'd be doing.

"He's the paradigm of what a contemporary American artist should really be about," says Don Was down the line from L.A. "He completely shunned the music centres and set up his own little station on the frontier. He will not play by the rules. That's really what they started America for." It makes sense that he's a national institution. Sinatra sang at his sixtieth. Last year some Seattle bands made a grungy tribute album. When recently arrested for marijuana possession (a charge he'd never deny: he once smoked a joint on the White House roof), the case was thrown out of court.

Last weekend brought Willie Nelson and Family's never-ending tour to these shores. On Saturday night the pater-families shambled on to the Albert Hall stage, shod in chunky grey trainers and baring sturdy, wrinkled old man's biceps. The show over, Nelson pumped paws and signed programmes for fans variously distinguished by nose rings, blue tinsies, beerguts and scrubbed pre-pubescent complexions. No high priest of popular music presides over a broader church.

It's midnight by the time the glad-handing is done, but the promotional chores are not over. Out on the road Nelson sets aside the small hours for doing interviews.

We traipse through the old building's network of corridors to a door marked Conductor's Room. Imagine the talent that has used this cupboard down the years. Its current occupant perches on the sofa. His much younger wife Annie, a make-up artist he met on the set of a movie, takes the chair, and the pony-tailed benchman leans against the door jamb.

After the concert: Willie Nelson and Family, the interview.

The first time Nelson performed in London, "if I'm not mistaken, I came with Hank Snow and we played the Royal Albert Hall". Ringo Starr popped backstage: maybe he'd heard that Snow, a country legend born in 1914, hailed from Liverpool, Nova Scotia. The Beatle "came in the dressing room, and said 'hello', and that's about it. He didn't know me from Adam."

Nelson set about distinguishing himself from Adam at an early age. His parents were divorced, so he and his sister Bobbie were brought up by his father's parents. Grandfather was a blacksmith with a gas station out the front on the highway. Little Willie "would turn the bellows that fire the coals that heat the horse shoes to shape them, and I helped him sharpen a lot of ploughs". But both grandfathers also taught music: "They could read the 'do re mi fa so la' to the shape notes, and teach legitimate singers to sing." Their best ever pupil got a Stella guitar at five. "The strings were an inch off, so my fingers got toughened up early."

In fact, his first talent was in words rather than music. "That was the first thing that he was really so very good at," says Bobbie Nelson, his sister and pianist, who exudes the same air of slow serenity that's part of the Texan inheritance. (Another part, thanks to the state's ethnic diversity, is the catholic taste in music, which helps to explain the baffling news that Nelson's next release will be an album of reggae songs). "Before I learnt to play an instrument I was writing poems," her brother confirms. "I was writing about things that I had no idea of." "Infidelity and betrayal," his autobiography says - straight into the wrist-slitting country groove. And the first song, does he remember it? "Sure." So how does it go? "Can't tell you. If it was that good I'd be doing it in the show."

His grandfather died when Willie was six. Perhaps out of proxy-paternal feeling, the town's other blacksmith invited him, aged eight, to join the local Bohemian polka outfit. "I've often wondered why John Rayceck wanted me in that band, unless he just thought maybe I was going to be in some band somewhere and maybe wanted to give me a little experience of what it was all like. I played rhythm guitar in a band where you had a big drum, and a big oom-pa horn."



There was no way that I could be heard. I didn't care. I was getting paid, and they couldn't hear my mistakes."

For his silent efforts he took home \$8 a night: not bad, pro rata, compared with the weekly wage of \$50 he earned as a desk-bound songwriter when he first went to Nashville in 1960. But that was years away. He formed his first family band, with Bobbie, her high-school husband, the football coach and their dad, and got the touring habit. It didn't take him far enough, though, and at 16 he joined the US Air Force: "It was a way out of town. I had to get my grandmother to sign for me to go I was so young." He did a tour of Korea and, as the Nashville suits would discover, responded poorly to authority. "Everything was disciplinary and you had a lot of orders to follow, and I was not used to doing that."

Back home he worked on a farm in Waco and sold encyclopaedias and vacuum cleaners door to door. But having DJ-ed in his teens, he took it up again and for several years he flitted from station to station and state to state. In 1956, 40 years ago, he pressed his own single and hawked it over the airwaves in Vancouver, Washington. "I think I sold four or five hundred at a dollar apiece, and I threw in an eight by ten glossy."

There was marriage, children, drinking, trailer parks and penury, but the songwriting gathered pace. Commuting from Pasadena to perform over in Houston, he composed in the car, and in one week he wrote "Crazy", "Night Life" and "Funny How Time Slips Away", the rights to which would keep someone less spendthrift in moderate comfort for life. "That was a nice week." Did he know "Crazy" was that good a song? "Once I found the chords to it I heard some chords in my mind and so I went to the guitar and tried to find them and it took a little while. The words came actually quicker than the chord changes."

Pretty soon he was in Nashville, writing songs for a publisher that others would record. When Faron Young gave him his first hit, the songwriter, \$20,000 richer, tracked the singer down to 'Tootsie's Orchid Lounge' and kissed him on

the lips. Nashville had its first taste of Nelson's unorthodoxy. Though financially secure, his own singing career stayed stubbornly in neutral: a contract with RCA tied him up for 18 underpromoted albums. His voice's nasal phrasing was too loose and interpretive for regimental Nashville, and when his house burnt down two days before Christmas in 1970, he needed no further encouragement to slip home to Austin and grow his hair.

"It was a way to blend. I felt like if I was going to be there and really relax and do what I wanted to do, it was a good time to do it because the audiences were definitely not dressing up. So I didn't see the need to do it, because I really wasn't trying to impress anybody." And yet this was when he started to do just that: he switched labels in 1973 and spent the rest of the decade cooking up albums done to his own specifications - not the overdone style of Nashville but rare, almost raw. *Shotgun Willie* was a shot across the bows, then *Red Headed Stranger* went gold. *Wanted: The Outlaws*, made with fellow troublemaker and most frequent collaborator Waylon Jennings, was the first country album to sell a million. *Stardust*, a collection of covers, defied all dire warnings of disaster.

The money now avalanched into his wallet, but never settled. "I didn't keep it. It sort of went through me. A lot of people had a good time, including me. I don't regret it. I still try to throw it away quicker than I make it, but so far I haven't been able to do that." At the end of the 1970s, the IRS decided that Nelson owed them. He's often been portrayed as a financial incompetent, but he blames, and indeed sued, the people he hired to be competent for him. "It was bad bookkeeping on their part. I had an accountant who didn't tell me the right thing to do. He had me in some tax shelters and things that were disallowed, and it was really not that good advice." To settle his debt, reduced to about \$9m, he did not in the end, as has been widely misreported, have to auction off his studio, golf course, western town, house and fishing camp. But he did hurry out a compilation

called *The IRS Tapes: Who'll Buy My Memories*. The 1980s found him diversifying into film (soundtracks and acting) and the annual Farm Aid benefit to help America's struggling rural communities like the one into which he was born.

The constant throughout has been his obedience to his twin mistresses, writing and the road. In 40 years he has written in the order of 2,000 songs, roughly one a week, though "actually I'd skip a few weeks and then maybe write six or seven in a day". There are far more than can ever be recorded. *Spirit*, the new album, starts with three songs remembered from 15 years ago. The nearly completed reggae album rescues forgotten tunes from the early Sixties. "He probably wrote 600 songs in that period," says the album's progenitor Don Was. "There are 300 sitting there that no one's ever heard and he simply didn't have time to record. But the quality doesn't diminish. There were three or four that he really didn't remember writing." They're still mostly sad meditations on lost love and broken dreams. Does it all go back to his parents' divorce? "I can't blame it on them. I don't know. I'm a country songwriter and we write cry-in-your-beer songs. That's what we do. Something that you can slow dance to."

Like Eric Clapton, a more frequent occupant of the Albert Hall, he lost a son a few years ago. Where Willie had failed to kill himself at 39, Billy succeeded at 33. But unlike Clapton, there have been no cathartic songs on the subject. Miraculously, Nelson has kept up an air of unsullied contentment. He now has two more young sons, is doing what he enjoys and doesn't see the point of retirement. "I can't see what I'd be retiring to or from." The words from "Crazy" (which Patsy Cline hated when she first heard his demo) have never rung more true. "Worry, why in the world should I worry?" And there have been no more nights spent supine on the tarmac. "If you get by one time there's no need pushing your luck. So I haven't laid in the street any more."

■ *Spirit* is released on Island Records, 3 June. Willie Nelson appears on 'Later With Jools Holland' tonight, 11.30pm BBC2





# The plastic inflatable bangle: simply a must for shiny, happy people

By Dominic Lutyens

**W**e were once as inflexible in our dislike of plastic as plastic itself. It was nasty, tacky, and, to invoke its slang meaning, "fake". That was until the Sixties and Seventies retro legitimised it again. Cult London shop Tom Ford first reminded us of how quirky and fun original Sixties and Seventies plastic furniture can be. Now, shops such as Oggetti Alessi, which once specialised in dauntingly "grown-up" china and glass, stock funky, frivolous plastic goodies.

It's not only the home that's welcoming back shiny, happy plastic. Judging by Janice Taylor's popular PVC and moulded Perspex bangles, rings, necklaces and belts, jewellery designers may be poised to embrace it, too.

And about time. Just as designer black shows no signs of giving up the ghost, so silver has been the easy jewellery of choice for as long as most of us can remember. Taylor's designs are not only original and irreverent, they are also very contemporary in that their colours and shapes refer to the look and mood of Sixties and Seventies space-age furniture. Her inflatable bangles suggest that, somewhere along the line, she was smitten by the experimental blow-up furniture of the Sixties (for example, Italian designer Zanotta's classic Michelin man of a chair, Blow). "Futuristic furniture might have been very trendy in the Sixties," says Taylor, "but some of it was timeless so it has lasted well."

Clearly, Taylor also has a soft spot for the space-age Perspex jewellery that was so in vogue in the early Seventies – the uncompromisingly modern kind you can imagine finger-on-the-pulse Bond girls wearing with a devastatingly simple halter-neck dress for a date with 007.

Taylor studied painting and sculpture in her native New Zealand before moving to London where she got hooked on making jewellery. Although her ideas have always been innovative, her first designs looked nothing like the hard-edged jewellery she produces today. First came a collection of necklaces consisting of an intricate cobweb of semi-precious beads that covered the entire torso. "I wanted to design something that was half-way between jewellery and clothing," she explains. "The natural extension of that was to make body jewellery, which is when I thought of doing cane shin pads. The cane was woven in such a way that the pads were stretchy and moulded to the body."

For one so passionate about the heavily synthetic space-age aesthetic, didn't using natural materials go against the grain? "Not at all. My work always picks up on what fab-

rics are fashionable at the time," says Taylor. "Two years ago, everyone was wearing linens and natural fibres, so my designs then had a more natural look." Now that people think plastic's fantastic, she is, of course, in her element. Her current highly polished range, available in zesty limes, oranges and yellows, couldn't be more in tune with this summer's much-trumpeted fashion for juicy, citrus shades. Not surprisingly, London shops like Browns, Liberty, American Retro and Koi Samui have snapped up Taylor's wares.

Taylor stresses that she wants her designs to be seen as extrovert and fun. "I like jewellery to look cartoony and very comical," she says. Recalling brightly coloured fillos and children's arm bands, her inflatable bangles, from £28.00, have kitschy, seaside overtones. Available in mad fluorescent shades, many of them also look tailor-made for raves. A midriff-encircling "necklace", for example – a fluorescent Perspex band on a slinky chain to be worn around the waist – has been a hit with American Retro's club-fied customers. Just as idiosyncratic are Taylor's neck bibs (a transparent choker that looks like a miniature baby's bib, from £45.00), clavicle pendant and multi-coloured candy-stripe Perspex knuckle-dusters. Made of superlight materials, they are also very comfortable.

Taylor concedes that although its more respectable now, plastic jewellery still isn't taken seriously by some fashion cognoscenti. "Some people think of plastic as throwaway and trite," she says. "To give it more credibility, I'll couple it with silver pins or an elegant snake chain in silver-plated nickel." Not that Taylor need worry about her designs lacking credibility or of being pigeonholed as kitsch. For starters, she has an eye for unusual colour combinations. One of her belt buckles, for example, teams a loud egg-yolk yellow with a quiet grey, while one of her bracelets is made of two interlocking semicircles, one in a mellow flesh colour, the other in a garish fluorescent green.

Looking ahead a bit, for autumn/winter (she brings out two ranges a year), Taylor plans to replace summer's day-glo brights with lapis pins, chokers and chunky bracelets in classical tan, amber and lacquer red. She will also be using Bakelite Perspex to create a Forties flavour, while sticking to Seventies modernist shapes. "I'm interested in how the Seventies were inspired by different retro styles, one of the main ones being Art Deco," says Taylor. "I like to sandwich these different influences."

Call 0171-613 3126 for stockists.



Janice Taylor's fantastic plastic jewellery: inflatable bracelets from £28.00; perspex and silver rings from £34.00; two-piece clear bangle with silver stud from £37.50.

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## Helen Lewis

Oldland Mill sits on a blustery Sussex hill. It is being restored by the 'intrepid eight', all of them pensioners

**By Clive Fewins**

"We hope to get the main frame complete next year, before turning to the machinery, most of which we salvaged and stored, and the four 22ft long sweeps



## Two of the intrepid eight survey their labour of love

[sails] " Mr Annett said.

"We have no problem producing drawings because two of the team have worked extensively on mills before and it is fairly easy to follow the existing structure. Whenever we are in doubt we consult owners of other surviving post mills."

The main problem the team faces is financial. The work has already cost more

than £18,000, which has been raised mainly from village coffee mornings and other local events. "We have not been able to attract any public money because we do not own the freehold of the site," Mr Annett said.

“British Telecom generously gave us £1,500, and another company said they would give us £2,000 pounds a year.”  
Unfortunately after two years they went broke.

"I reckon that with one cheque for £200,000 we could finish the job and be grinding corn in a couple of years. How-

ever carrying on in this way keeps us out of the pubs and off the streets for at least one day a week..."

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## The case of the radio-carrying salmon

One fact of life on the Beauvy, for good or ill, is the pair of hydroelectric dams built in the 1950s. Their good point, piscatorially



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William Midwood, managing director of the new company, reasoned that the higher up the river a salmon is bred, the earlier it is likely to return from the sea, since it has farther to go to reach the breeding ground which instinct makes it seek out. In June 1992 he therefore arranged for over 100,000 fed fry (baby salmon) hatched from Beauty spawna to be planted in burns far up the river.

In due course these fry grew into parr, and then into smolts. Those which survived should have been washed downriver, over the falls and through the dams to the sea.

In an attempt to gain more knowledge, the company hopes to conduct a major radio-tracking experiment through the River Beaulieu District Fisheries' Board; but this would cost at least £150,000, and a grant is being sought. Meanwhile, a small-scale radio project has yielded fascinating information about how fish approach the main hydro dam at Kilmorack.

Last summer 10 salmon were netted below the dam and fitted with radios. Three automatic listening stations monitored their movements: one as they approached from below, another as they entered the bottom chamber of the lift, and a third as they emerged from the top. Of the 10, only four went through, but the monitors revealed that the radio-salmon made more than 1,000 visits to the lower chamber.

Altogether, during the summer

and autumn, some 10,000 salmon went through the dam. If this figure represents the same ratio as that of the radio-fish (40 per cent), it suggests that there must have been some 15,000 salmon in the river below. It further suggests that the catches now being made in the Beaulieu as a whole – 1,687 in 1994 and 1,395 last year – are at an easily sustainable level.

What fascinates me is the fact that, in spite of intensive study and the insatiable enthusiasm of experienced fishermen, so much about salmon remains mysterious. How, for instance, do they find their way back to their home river? Experts agree that taste guides them in the final stages, but before that they may rely on currents, changes in sea temperature and even a magnetic sense.

It is well established that when they enter the river, they cease to eat. Why, then, do they sometimes go for an artificial fly? Is it out of curiosity or irritation? Why, after several blank sessions, did Mr Midwood suddenly catch three in a hour one evening? And why, in particular, did no fish go for my fly in three whole days of casting? Failure cannot have been *entirely* due to my ham-fistedness.

Even if every salmon in the river carried a radio, I bet we still wouldn't know why it is that the fish will hardly ever bite.



# Clear out the yard, but spare the concrete

WORKSHOP: Gill King and Michael Griffith-Jones want ideas for their courtyard, yet they don't want to lose the stone floor. By Anna Pavord

Our home is a brick (c1914) two-storey warehouse in south London. We would like some ideas of how to treat a walled courtyard space, approximately 34ft by 16ft. This is currently a single storey extension to the main building. We plan to remove most of the roof, leaving a shelter nine feet deep at the north-west end and knock out the windows and doors to create arches in the 10ft high wall. It has a concrete floor which we do not propose to take up, although we can break it up in certain areas for drainage purposes. This area is on an east-west axis and is quite overshadowed by large trees over which we have little control. We think built-up beds will be necessary and want to include a pond.

When Gill King and her partner, Michael Griffith-Jones wrote this letter, they were living in a Portacabin, waiting for builders to finish work on their warehouse, once a ceramic tile works. By the time I caught up with them, they had moved in and the area where the Portacabin had been standing had become another cause for concern. It is beside the extension they talked about in their letter: a rectangle, mostly rubble, roughly 18ft by 10ft filling the north-east corner of their plot and heavily overshadowed by a large sycamore. Not the most propitious spot for planting.

The only earth in the whole place is a thin strip, just four feet wide squeezed in between the outside wall of the extension (which was to become part of the garden) and the tall, battered chain-link fence that is their northern boundary. It's just about wide enough to walk down without knocking the corners off your elbows.

Ms King does not mind the lack of earth. "I've got very attached to our tarmac," she said. "I like the idea that once, huge 40ft lorries backed in and out of this building. We've kept so much of the structure. We don't really want to start digging up the hard surfaces."

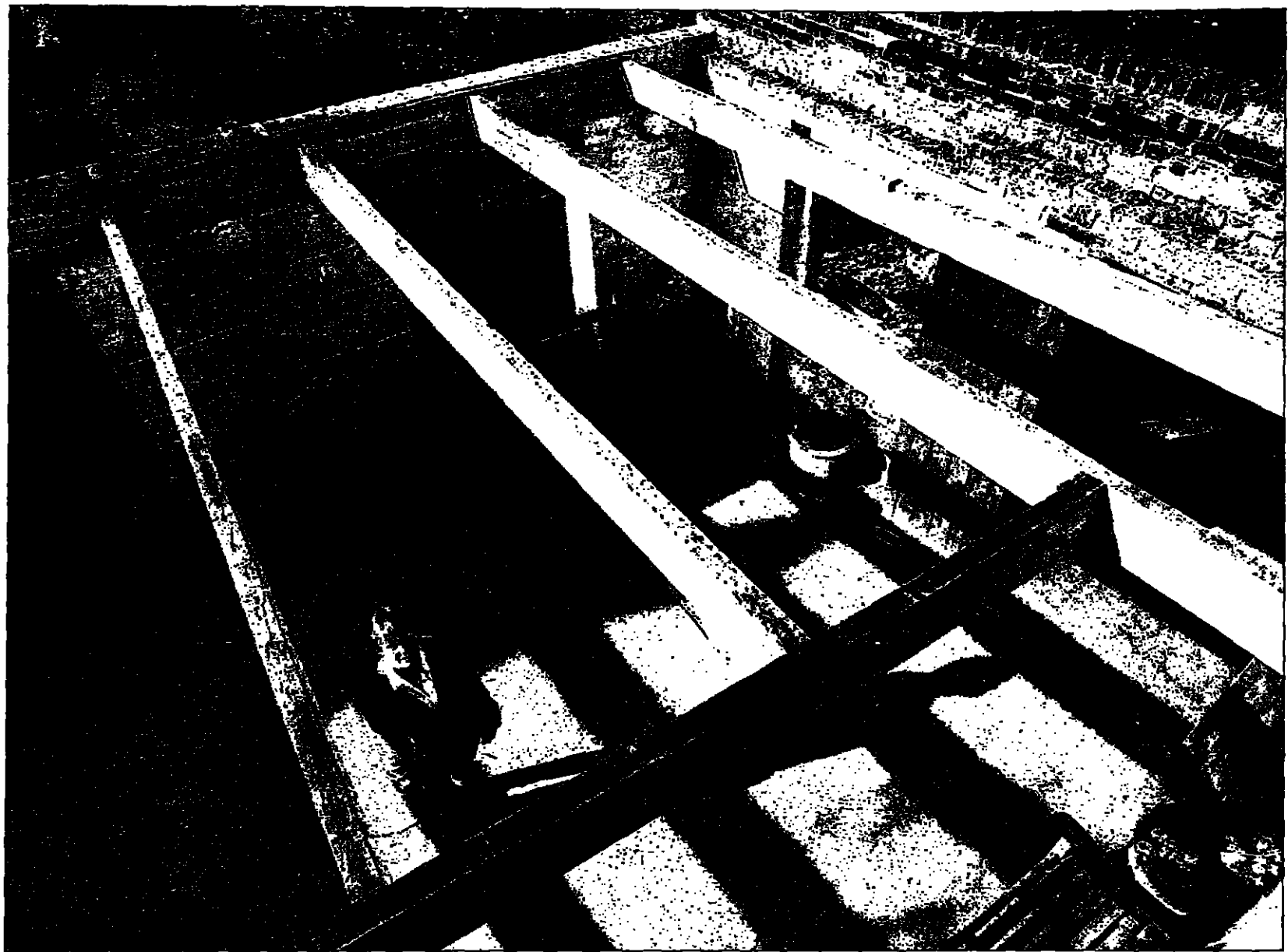
Ms King and Mr Griffith-Jones are both social workers in their forties and they want the garden to be a peaceful refuge, a soothing place, with the white noise sound of water bubbling in the background and great waves of scent to billow past the seats they have already put in the walled courtyard.

By taking the roof and every other roof joist away from the lean-to extension, they had created a very successful walled-round courtyard with a pergola-like roof. They had taken out the old Crittall windows, leaving three arched openings along the north-facing wall. The old, cracked concrete floor was still in situ, but the walls on the inside of the courtyard had been whitewashed, giving the space a curiously Moorish air.

I suggested a rectangular pool in the centre of the courtyard, built to the same proportions as the yard itself. A raised pool would break up the space more effectively than a sunken one, and would be easier and cheaper to build. Faces brightened at the thought that the beloved concrete would not have to be sacrificed, but fell when I suggested hedging all the way round the raised pool with box. This would grow up to the level of the water and then be neatly cut across the top, so that the water would look as if it was contained in low hedges of box, rather than in breeze-block walls.

Could the box hedges be planted in troughs, asked Ms King. "No," I said firmly. They could drill a border round the outside of the pool and plant in that. It would still be less trouble than excavating a space big enough for the pool itself. But the look on their faces convinced me they would do nothing of the sort. The pool, with a simple submerged jet in the centre to give the required background noise, would be simple to install. At the end of summer they could fix a net over the top of it to catch the leaves that fall in huge numbers from the sycamore.

On the outside of the courtyard where the thin strip of earth runs between the wall and the chain-link boundary fence, Ms King and Mr Griffith-Jones had dug big planting pits underneath each of the windows, and had already set *Clematis montana* in each of them. They had three different kinds: 'Tetrasore' which has big lilac-rose flowers, 'Elizabeth', which smells of chocolate and the more deeply coloured 'Pink



Jill King: 'I've got very attached to our tarmac'

Photo: Nick Turpin

Perfection'. If I had been choosing, I would have spread the flowering times of the three clematis more widely by choosing just one *Montana*, with a *Macropetala* clematis for early spring and a *Jackmanii* type for high summer.

Set on the outside of the courtyard wall, the plants faced north. But if the stems were led in through the window spaces, they could be trained up the inside south-facing aspect of the wall, where they would not only flower better, but be more easily seen by Ms King and Mr Griffith-Jones. When the clematis are large enough, they could scramble along the open pergola-like roof joists.

Since this was the only earth these two gardeners have they need to make the most of it. I suggested vines such as *Vitis coignetiae* which could cope with the shade cast by the sycamore, *Vitis vinifera* 'Purpurea' and a run-bustion rose such as the white, cluster-flowered 'Rambling Rector'. It only flowers once, but then so do the *Montana* clematis. For late summer, they could try white-flowered solanum, and in the sunniest spot, the tropical looking climber *Campsis x tagliabuana* 'Mme Galen'. The vines would give a feeling of luxuriant leafiness. The clematis, rose and solanum would add colour. The *Campsis* has foliage as good as its brilliant orange trumpet flowers. All could be

trained through the window arches and up the inside courtyard wall to the roof beams.

Inside the courtyard building, Ms King and Mr Griffith-Jones had terracotta tubs formally planted with pairs of spiky mahonias, yellow-flowered *fremontodendron* and *Magnolia grandiflora*, the big-leaved evergreen bay that comes from the Florida swamps. They aren't adapted to life in containers, but in the short term, they may be happy enough, especially if the watering system Mr Griffith-Jones talked about is installed. They will all need regular feeding. I find Osmocote slow release granules the easiest and best method of feeding. Used in spring, they provide food for the next six months.

If they built a raised bed along the far east-facing wall of the courtyard, Ms King and Mr Griffith-Jones would make life easier for their plants. They would also give themselves room to build up satisfying plant groups - difficult in an 18in container. But it would mean drilling holes for drainage in the concrete at the bottom of the raised beds. Although I dared not suggest it, I would then cover the concrete throughout the courtyard with creamy gravel, making sure I had cracked up enough of it underneath to allow flowers such as *erigerons* and *violas* to self-seed.

The space outside the courtyard was more difficult to

resolve, overhung and dripped on by the sycamore. But since Mr Griffith-Jones seemed to like formal arrangements I suggested dividing the space visually into two squares by standing a bay tree in a pot in each of the two halves of the long rectangle.

Neither of them wanted to remove the rubble here, so the plants would have to cope with shade, drought, and starvation. If they could be started off in pockets of good earth, excavated in the rubble, they would have at least a fighting chance of survival. Dark-leaved bugle, arums with marbled leaves (*Arun italicum* 'Pictum'), epimediums with good foliage on thin wiry stems, creeping lamiums, pink and white purple-leaved *Viola labradorica* (or even the bullying yellow flowered), tellima and spotty-leaved pulmonaria would all be worth trying. Once planted, they could be left to weave themselves together into a low Persian carpet of changing leaf and flower. Small ferns such as *Polypodium vulgare* 'Cornubiense' might survive too.

But I am worried about those magnolias, which are programmed to grow into massive stately trees, at least 15ft high, 10ft wide. I can imagine their roots soon banging against the sides of their pots shouting "Help! Let me out." I hope Ms King and Mr Griffith-Jones will be able to hear them.

## Back to the drawing board

Botanists still prefer paintings to photographs. Charlotte Packer rediscovers an intricate art

Many people regard botanical art as a genre which started at some point in the 15th century, reached its peak with the works of Johann Jakob Walther, Redouté and Ehret, and died at some point early this century - its usefulness eclipsed by the immediacy and accuracy of photography. Not so. Botanical art has not only survived, but is actually thriving, and the genre as a whole is currently enjoying something of a renaissance - as the current exhibition of the Shirley Sherwood Collection at Kew Gardens Gallery in London makes clear.

The plants and flowers represented in the show are analysed petal by petal, stamen by stamen; each minute hair annotated. Colours are built up through washes until the exact pink, red or green is achieved. While the dedication of these artists is all very laudable, and their illustrations remarkable, is their work really necessary? Wouldn't a photograph be a faster, more accurate, and certainly more cost effective means of recording organisms which often die before the artist's paint has dried, and sometimes long before the study is even finished?

The advantage of the artist's eye over the camera becomes obvious the moment you look closely at any of the works in Dr Sherwood's collection. No camera could record the detail required by botanists, and captured by the artists. Thus botanical illustration is an essential means of plant identification, and is regarded as an important scientific tool: "The photograph will give you a very good idea of a plant's habitat," explains Dr Sherwood. "But when it comes to the nitty gritty, a botanist will always consult a drawing." The key to any botanical illustration, she says, is the quality of the specimen recorded, and a good botanical artist will go to any lengths to get that perfect specimen. The lavishly illustrated book which accompanies the exhibition is filled with tales of bulbs that died, plants



Camellia 'Paul Jones Supreme'

that wilted or in the case of Paul Jones - who has dedicated his powers of observation and drawing to the camellia - the commission scuppered by a member of the public who unwittingly picked the choice flower and bud he was planning to paint. The commission had to wait a year until the plant was next in bloom.

For many years there has been no real market for contemporary botanical art beyond the academic: at Kew, for example, there are at least a quarter of a million extraordinary studies of the rare and the common-place, all beautifully and faithfully executed (the majority for scientific and horticultural publications), but then consigned to folios where they will be looked at by a couple of hundred pairs of eyes at the most. A meagre reward for such lonely and exacting work.

However the fortunes of the botan-

ical artist have begun to change. The Kew Gardens Gallery shares its treasures with the public, mounting at least two exhibitions a year since its foundation in 1988. While Kew's efforts have met with approval from artists and public alike, Dr Sherwood, botanical artist manque, has been the real force behind moving late 20th century botanical illustration beyond the realms of science and into the art world. Her unrivalled collection, built up over the last six years, has made the works of contemporary artists in this field available to a wider, and hugely receptive lay audience.

Botanical Artists: The Shirley Sherwood Collection is available in paperback from Kew Gardens (£12.99) or in hardback from bookshops (£40). The exhibition at Kew Gardens runs until 2 June.

## CUTTINGS

The Savill Garden, now at its spring peak, is holding a Plant Fair today (10am-5.30pm). Many specialist nurseries will be selling plants and there will also be old gardening books for sale. Entrance is via Wick Lane, Englefield Green, off the A30, on the edge of Windsor Great Park. Admission £3.50.

Plant Heritage's Yorkshire Group are holding their Spring Plant Fair tomorrow (11am-4pm) in the old riding school

at Hovingham Hall, Malton. Alpines, herbaceous perennials, trees, shrubs, clematis, ferns, violas and plants for ponds will be on sale as well as pots from Bessingby Pottery. The garden, with 18th-century dovetail, will also be open. Admission £2.

When Marshalls first started selling vegetable starter plants, two years ago, they offered just six. Now there are 18 to choose from, including six different kinds

of cabbages, three cauliflowers (£2.85 for 15), two sorts of Brussel sprouts (£2.35 for 15), pink or white celery (£2.45 for 15), autumn and winter leeks (£1.95 for 25), broccoli (£2.35 for 15) and celeriac (£2.45 for 15). The greenhouse collection has already sold out, but Marshalls can send out plants of the other, outdoor vegetables until the end of May. Minimum order, four varieties. Order from S E Marshalls & Co Ltd, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 2RF (01945 583407).

## WEEKEND WORK

Get celery plants in trenches into the bottom of which you have put plenty of muck or compost, covered by soil. Plants should be about a foot apart in double rows about nine inches apart down the sides of the trench.

Sow sweetcorn in a warm, sheltered spot outside. Set the seeds in a grid

about 18in apart to help pollination. Sow beetroot, sprouting broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbages and carrots. Hoe between rows of onion sets to chivy weed seedlings. Pinch out sideshoots of greenhouse tomatoes and feed regularly. Sow cucumbers, marrows and melons inside or in a

greenhouse, setting a single seed in a three-inch pot. Cover the pots with newspaper until the seedlings emerge. Cut back over ambitious evergreens such as spotty laurel (*Aucuba japonica*) and plain laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*). New shoots will soon spring from the base.

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## property

# Where they can't build fast enough

The north-east is booming. So are developers — and they're running out of properties. By Mary Wilson

The north-east of Britain is currently an area of superlatives. Newcastle will have the largest Marks & Spencer in Britain, once the present one has doubled in size. Its MetroCentre is Europe's most profitable retail mall. North Shields has the largest commercial development outside London; and at the moment 67 companies are planning to move to North Tyneside. Small wonder that the north-east has the highest rate of new house building than any other region in the country. The only fly in the ointment is that Newcastle didn't win the Premier League.

Companies such as Bryant, Bellway, Persimmon and Barratt are building as fast as they can. Newcastle itself has always had a fairly small housing stock and with a population of only 250,000 has had a relatively stable housing market. "Since the crash, we have not seen huge drops in prices, nor savage examples of negative equity," says Peter Hopburn of Blackhorse Agencies.

Bryant Homes, which intends to double its output every other year in the north-east, is seeing a substantial rise in sales. Susan Latimer, regional sales manager says, "We are right out of built homes at the moment. We have had such a good last three months that everything is sold. It is very good news and we are putting up prices at some of the better sites."

Prices in some parts of Newcastle — Gosforth and Jesmond — are now very similar to those in London. Other popular residential areas are Darras Hall and Ponteland, although a core of wealthy families have recently moved out even further to Corbridge, which is now half an hour from Newcastle on the dual-carriage A69.

Malcolm Weinberg of GA Property Services

moved up to Ponteland from London three years ago with his wife Gillian and two teenage daughters. "It was rather traumatic for the first six months, but after that we all settled in well. The girls have made close friends and Gillian and I have become keen Newcastle United supporters. Neither of us even liked football before."

"Newcastle is a very convenient city, it is very self-contained with everything you want within a few streets and there is a good variety of restaurants and theatres. We moved into a bigger house with more land than we could have afforded in London, and are virtually in the countryside."

The demand for three-bedroom semis and four-bedroom detached houses is growing rapidly. David Wellstead of Countrylife Homes, who himself moved up from London 30 years ago, is keenly aware of this. "My company is usually involved in commercial ventures, but I saw there was a gap in the market for high-spec executive houses in small villages within commuting distance of Newcastle," he says.

At Shotley Bridge, a village 10 minutes from Newcastle, he is building nine three- to five-bedroom houses in local stone with slate roofs and walled gardens sloping down to the River Derwent. The timber-framed houses have huge living rooms and dining rooms with central inglenook fireplaces. Prices range from £150,000 to £269,000.

In the second-hand market, it is also the larger homes which are being snapped up. GA Property Services, which has 15 branches in the area, cannot find enough good houses to sell. "We have done nearly a year's business in the first quarter of 1996," says Duncan Young, area sales director. "Some of the better houses are



The £30m St Peter's Marina development, launched by Barratt with the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation

going up in value by 20 per cent on six months ago. There is quite a shortage of these and what we really need is more good quality new family houses."

One of the nicest period properties GA has just put on the market is Dissington Garden House, near Dalton. This four-bedroom, early 19th-century house is in the midst of farming land, has five acres with a large walled garden and is on the market for £550,000.

Barratt launched its £30 million St Peter's Marina development on the river Tyne in partnership with Tyne and Wear Development Corporation in 1987. Although this development of 361 homes is still a little out on a limb, it will become more integrated with the city once it is joined up by a walkway to Quayside. This waterfront area is being developed into a

new business district, with shops, new homes, a hotel, leisure facilities and restaurants.

Barratt has started work on six new developments in the area which will create around 600 homes. "Prospects for the housing market in the north-east are brighter now than at any time during the past two years," says Mike Norton, Barratt Northern Chairman. "Our sales revenue is running seven per cent ahead of last year and the huge investments by the likes of Siemens and Samsung are going a long way to dispel any lack of confidence."

Barratt, 0345 626364; Bellway Homes, 0191-217 0717; Blackhorse Agencies, 0191-281 0744; Bryant Homes, 0191-273 2783; Countrylife Homes, 01207 545945; GA Property Services, 0191-284 5761.

## Househunter

Bushy Park in Enniskerry, Co Wicklow



This has had a number of notable owners. It once belonged to William Parnell, who opposed the union between Ireland and Britain back in the early 1800s and later the house was owned by the "hanging judge", Judge Keogh. Bushy Park, which has 22 acres and is 13 miles from Dublin, will be auctioned on Tuesday 28 May by Hamilton Osborne King. It has eight bedrooms and three main reception rooms, superb grounds with coach house and stabling, a house and two cottages. "We have had some good home-based enquiries, but we believe that there will be a high level of interest from abroad, particularly from England and Germany," says Hugh Hamilton. (00 353 1 6760251).

## For What Its Worth

There is evidence of increased demand for prime central London properties according to Wetherell. The estate agent reports that this is particularly the case in the £50,000 to £2m price range. Wetherell says this is borne out by the current trend for off-market deals which in their experience in the last six months amount to about 30 per cent of all transactions in the Mayfair area.

This might provide some cause for concern for agents; not so Wetherell. Because of the difficulty of finding the right property on the market (not helped by this predilection by vendors to sell quietly and privately), the agent has also had a 250 per cent increase in the number of applicants who are prepared to retain them in the acquisition of properties. Wetherell has been helping these clients buy properties whether on or off the open market.

# Blots on the landscape: the caravan sites that became shanty towns

Because of a loophole in planning regulations, mobile home parks have sprung up in protected beauty spots. By Amanda Seidl

Mobile homes generally have a bad press. This is partly down to the association with illegal gypsy camps, building sites and sprawling seaside caravan sites. At worst, mobile home parks can be unsightly shanty towns that are outside normal planning regulations. And because of a loophole in the law, they have sprung up in protected beauty spots where any form of housing development would be out of the question.

To the untrained eye there is little obvious difference between a bungalow and a top-of-the-range park home, with its bay windows and tiled roof. Wheels and supports are tastefully hidden behind a brick wall, while inside, fireplaces and fitted kitchen give no clue to the home's

real identity. So why not build a bungalow and be done with it? One vital reason is price — a fully fitted mobile home costs as little as £30,000 from the factory and older, second-hand homes can be found for around £20,000.

According to the British Holiday & Home Parks Association, around 205,000 people — 80 per cent of them retired — live on mobile home parks in Britain. The appeal lies not just in the price, but in the location of many parks in unspoiled rural and coastal surroundings where housing development is either not permitted or is prohibitively expensive.

Planning laws only recognised caravan sites as a development control issue in 1960. But caravan parks established

before 1960 could not be refused a site licence, and because the definition of a caravan is so vague, it is still possible for sites designated for holiday caravans to be developed as permanent residential mobile home parks without additional planning permission.

In the New Forest, just such a development recently raised a storm of local protest when a field in the green belt near Lymington was bought by park home manufacturers, Wonderland Homes, for the development of an estate of 64 residential mobile homes.

"What had been a field with half a dozen caravans hidden behind a hedge has now been turned into a small housing estate," explains Michael Stilton, head of development control at New For-

est District Council (NFDC). "The caravan site had been little used, but it had an open-ended consent so the council was unable to stop it being changed to residential use."

Pat Packer, marketing manager of Wonderland, believes that the quality of Knightcrest Park will overcome anxieties about its impact on the environment. "We have a quality award from the National Park Homes Council, so that governs the standard of landscaping," she says.

Like most park home estates, Knightcrest is aimed at retired couples and has strict regulations controlling pets, traffic and noise. Residents may not use their park homes for business purposes or let them out and children are absolutely forbidden. The objective is to create a

peaceful retirement village close to the sea and surrounded by the Forest.

For those willing to conform to the rules, Knightcrest homes start at £57,000 for a one-bedroom 640 sq ft unit to £83,000 for a two-bed, two-bathroom luxuriously appointed mobile home. The price includes a 99-year lease on a private landscaped plot complete with shed and paved driveway. Compared to park homes in other parts of the country this is expensive, but Mrs Packer points out that the price is roughly half the cost of a two-bedroom bungalow in the area.

Landowners have complete control over their private residential enclave, a situation that sometimes led to abuse of power before the introduction of the Mobile Homes Act in 1983. Mobile home

owners now have security of tenure for the life of their home and the right to sell it on or leave it to certain members of their family, although most landlords demand a 10 per cent out of the sale price.

Most councils now treat applications for residential mobile home sites as they would a housing development application. But there is still a significant difference in the amount of control planners can exercise over caravan sites.

"If we get an application for 12 houses, we know what the houses will look like and where they will be built on the site," explains Mr Stilton of NFDC. "But on a residential caravan site the only rules governing lay-out and density of use are those imposed by health and safety regulations."

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## The trials and tribulations of being a late 20th-century royal portraitist

Portraits of the powerful are always revealing. If not because of the images they contain, then for the reaction they provoke in those who view them. The unveiling of a recent portrait of the Queen provides a good case in point. The picture shows an elderly but dignified woman, with age-battered hands (has she been biting those nails?) and an expression of contemplative melancholy. It is very far from unsympathetic but it is decidedly unregal and, for royalist critics, it has had much the same effect as poking a stick into a wasps' nest.

Brian Sewell (*Joppus petulans*) put his elegant, unchewed finger on the central problem when he protested that the Queen resembles "a pensioner about to lose her bungalow". He was indignant about this but, though this is a bathetic description of the Queen in her present travails, it is not, surely, an entirely inaccurate one. The analogy has some

force. She is getting old and she can't be sure that she will pass on to her children what she now possesses by right. For the artist, and even for some royalist portrait-viewers (Bill Deedes in the *Telegraph*, for example), this was to be counted in the picture's favour. It is a plea for sympathy, a reminder that the monarch is a woman too and might, indeed, have sentiments in common with a pensioner in a bungalow.

For both Brian Sewell and Lord St John of Fawsley (*Joppus obsequiosus*), this misses the point of royal portraiture, which is not to paint the private person at all, but instead the strange amalgam of individual and institution which makes up a monarch. More than that, to paint out the details that might interrupt our sense of majesty. "The Queen is not an ordinary woman," says Sewell firmly, "not one of us," which (taken out of context like this) has a certain revealing



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

harshness to it. Sympathy for a monarch is one thing, fellow-feeling quite another. Lord St John, the *Malvolio of Emmanuel College*, is more unctuous: "It hasn't got the essence of the Queen, which is a serenity, benevolence and a happiness." Come again? These might be qualities he would wish for the monarch but, by her own confession, they have been a bit thin on the ground recently. So, if the picture is a portrait *horribilis*, there may be perfectly good reasons for that. Intriguingly, the Queen appears to be wearing a cloak rather similar to that which she

sports in Annigoni's shamelessly flattering depiction of a regal figurehead – as if Anthony Williams wished to refer back to that reverent image and show us how far we had come.

This isn't the only recent fuss over the depiction of the powerful. When RB Kitaj's recent portrait of President Clinton was unveiled at University College there was, according to some reports, a stunned two-second silence. We should take this with a pinch of salt. I think – unveilings traditionally demand a moment of contemplation and two seconds hardly sounds excessive. But looking at the image, you could see that the assembled dignitaries might have had trouble working out what to say next. The artist, granted an hour's sketching time in the Oval Office, appeared to have decided on a rather old-fashioned kind of portrait – an image of power and determination rather than a revelation

of inner character. The result was genuinely startling – something like Desperate Dan after one of Aunt Aggie's hated make-overs – but I don't think there's any doubting the sincerity of its attempt at respect. Kitaj voted for Clinton and wrote rather touchingly of his excitement at being in his presence. The result might have looked like a caricature but it was one with obedient rather than insurrectionary motives.

Both pictures demonstrate the uneasy dilemma that faces any good artist painting a portrait of someone with power. It is essentially a problem of divided fidelity – is the artist to be true to Queen and country, or true to life? For Holbein, I doubt if this was quite such a difficult opposition, if it arose at all. Even though it is now conventional to read his portrait of Henry VIII as a covert revelation of brutal state power, it's unlikely that he consciously took the risk at the time.

Tastes change in faces as they do in clothes and this massive figure, with his broad, resolute features, probably gave the client exactly what he wanted, an idealised vision of unassailable vigour. He is his own bodyguard, a bouncer planted before the throne.

For a modern painter, though, truth has come to be associated with weakness and vulnerability, with the scrupulous evasion of vanity. Honesty trades in the currency of what we would rather not confess. The ascendancy of psychological recognition as the final arbiter of artistic truth effectively means that a portrait which does not bring the great down to our level is in danger of being perceived either as a failure or a fraud. "They were like that!" exclaimed Anthony Williams, defending those controversial hands in this paper. In other words, he owed his loyalty to his art, not to his monarch.

## Can we have your marks, please, Oslo

Norwegians take the Eurovision Song Contest very seriously indeed. James Rampton reports from a country in the grip of Europop mania

Imagine having someone like Cliff Richard or Sandie Shaw in the Cabinet. In Norway, they do. Asa Kleveland, a statuesque fortysomething in a leather three-piece, is Norway's Minister of Cultural Affairs. She is also, like Sir Cliff and Sandie, a former competitor in the Eurovision Song Contest, coming third as a 16-year-old with "Intet nytt under solen" ("Nothing New Under the Sun") in 1966. Her subsequent rise to power is just one indication of the awe in which Norwegians hold the Contest.

Norway, which hosts the contest next Saturday, is in the grip of Eurovision fever. Picture the FA Cup Final fervour in Liverpool or Manchester this morning, then double it, and you're some way to grasping the extent of the Norwegian passion for Eurovision. In other parts of Europe, it may be a rather comical competition between people with bad hair crooning different variations on the lyric "bing, bing, a-bong", but in Norway it is a vital assertion of national identity. They visibly bridle at suggestions that they are best known to the rest of the continent for a record-squalling run of *nul points*. Jahn Teigen, who netted two out of the country's three zero scores, has become a national hero in Norway.

People thronged the streets waving flags and tooting car horns on the night Norway won last year with "Nocturne"; it was like Rio when Brazil took the World Cup in 1994. This year NRK, the state broadcasters, expect more than 80 per cent of the population to tune into the ceremony to see if they can repeat the feat. The contest annually attracts 30 per cent more viewers than the next most-watched programme in Norway. There has recently been a hotel strike in Oslo and locals were calling in, unbidden, to offer Eurovision competitors and delegates accommodation in their homes. A Eurovision Internet home page is being called up by 2,000 people a day. The 6,500 tickets for the ceremony at the Oslo Spektrum Theatre sold out in two hours, and NRK has also filled the house for the two dress rehearsals.

Kato Hansen, a neat, bespectacled translator who moonlights as president of the 150-strong Norwegian Song Contest fan club, thinks he's died and gone to Eurovision heaven. Taking periodic breaks from editing the Eurovision book, which lists every song since the competition's inception in 1956, he is entertaining journalists from all over the globe in his immaculate central Oslo flat, which houses the world's most comprehensive collection of Eurovision memorabilia. He has a recording of every single contest – something not even the BBC possesses – and can reel off stats with the unerring accuracy of a Speak-Your-Weight machine. A man who would not look out of place at a train spotters' convention, he reveals that Nana Mouskouri sang for Luxembourg in 1963 – "she came eighth" – before telling me that the official count of 138 la la la's in Spain's winning 1968 entry – entitled, you guessed it, "La La La" – is incorrect because the singer unexpectedly repeated one verse.

Although indignant that Terry Wogan's commentaries have "turned the Eurovision into a laughing matter in Britain", Hansen still manages to smile when assessing his own approach. "I do worry that it's taking over my life. I'm an academic. I know I'm not supposed to like the Eurovision, but it's about not giving in to the pressure to hate it because it's not politically correct. It's a question of not growing up, of allowing yourself the joy of remembering the fun you had when you watched your first contest."

The Norwegian Folk Museum at Bygdøy outside Oslo – where last year's winner, Gimmhild Tvinning, dresses up in national costume and works as a guide – is also rubbing its hands at the prospect of the contest. It has mounted a Eurovision exhibition which is attracting cult followers like a Star Trek convention. The displays include the original pink pyjama suit worn by Kleveland in 1966. "This used to be a very conservative country," she recalls, "and my grandmother was very upset. She thought my pink pyjamas brought shame on the family." On the wall of the museum is pinned a quote from a Norwegian remembering the first time Norway entered the Contest in 1960: "Eurovision was like Christmas Eve. No one was on the streets. It was a free evening for taxi-drivers."

So what is it about this arcane parade of terrible trousers and even worse tunes that so captivates the Norwegians? Your marks, please, Oslo. "The popularity of the Eurovision Song Contest is inversely proportionate to the size of the country," Hansen contends. "For Norwegians it's a way of seeing how we do on the international stage. Italy, France, Germany and the UK don't need that kind of confirmation because they already know that they're important."

Kleveland – a lookalike for the actress Shirley Anne Field – greets me in her spacious, wood-panelled sixth-floor office at the Ministry of Cultural Affairs in the heart of Oslo. Pushing aside a pile of state documents on her huge desk (not quite in the Michael Heseltine league, but getting there), she attempts to explain Norway's magnificent obsession with the Eurovision Song Contest. "It holds a very special place in the hearts of Norwegians because the interest is always greatest in the smaller nations, those countries which have an urge to show we can compete with bigger nations. For instance, there are suddenly a bunch of nations from Eastern Europe with a need to present themselves as able to compete with Western countries [this year's Eastern Bloc minnows are Estonia]. We don't really mind as long as we beat the Swedes." There was a diplomatic incident last year when the Swedish jury gave no points to the Norwegian song which went on to win. The Swedish ambassador in Oslo was

obliged to apologise to the Norwegian people for slighting their nation.

A completely random sample of opinion in an Oslo bar the same evening confirms the significance of Eurovision to the Norwegians. Anna, a marketing manager with a shamelessly good grasp of English, reckons that "in Norway, it is still a big deal. We do actually sit there and vote. Norwegians take themselves too seriously. If we could take a more satirical, more British attitude to it, it would be better. The problem is we're quite nationalistic." Anyone who remembers the tide of patriotic emotion that swept many Norwegians to victory in the 1992 Lillehammer Winter Olympics will concur.

Anna's companion, a civil engineer called Axel, takes up the theme. "We're not happy about having Europe dictate to us on anything – fishing policy, for instance. Norway has an inferiority complex because it's quite a new nation. [It only gained its independence in 1905 after five centuries of foreign rule]. We said 'no' to the EU in a referendum in 1994 because we felt we could do better on our own, without foreigners."

The Song Contest is an opportunity for Norway to present itself to the world as something more than just a country of fjords and flags. When Bobbysocks, the Norwegian duo, won in 1985 with "La det swinge" ("Let It Swing"), the Prime Minister held a state dinner for all Oslo's diplomatic corps in their honour, and they gained a government marketing award for their services to exports.

NRK's nerve-centre on the outskirts of Oslo is gearing up for the Big Night under the auspices of the executive producer of the Contest, the splendidly named Odd Arvid Stromstad, a stubbly man with rock-star looks who might also be known as "Mr Eurovision". He shows me a model of the set for the contest – a hockey-pitch-sized, hi-tech mock-up of an oil rig, Norway's major industry. "At the Olympics," he reflects, "you saw Norwegians as a strange people waving flags and wearing red national costumes. It was very folkloric. We're giving Norway a more modern image of a country good at providing equipment for the oil and electricity industries."

Kleveland agrees. "It's important to show we don't just play around in mountains and believe in trolls. We're a modern welfare state, and for 25 years we've been an oil and gas nation." Lars Otto Wolhum, Eurovision's information advisor, asserts that the contest "is more socio-politically important than we realise".

Morten Harket – this year's co-presenter (with NRK's Washington correspondent, Ingrid Bryn) and the former lead singer with what is perhaps Norway's biggest export after oil, the pop group A-ha – evidently agrees. He maintains that the contest is "a step forward at the negotiating table. It does help with European unity."

Kleveland wouldn't go that far, but she is keenly aware of the PR benefits to Norway of a show broadcast to more than 300 million people in 42 countries (including South Africa, Australia and South Korea). All for a budget of just £4m. "People's memories are very short," she muses. "We are a nation of four million people, so the funding to promote ourselves in the world is limited. If we had to buy the promotional package we're getting from the Eurovision, we could never afford it."

As we tot up the promotional marks for Norway, the country is very much in credit. "There's so much negativity from the media about Eurovision," Hansen protests. "It's like the West End theatre critics in London – they kill for pleasure. There's a stigma about the Eurovision Song Contest, a journalistic cliché that says it's per se bad quality. Maybe it's a case of political correctness. But the attraction of the contest is its excitement. Critics should acknowledge that."

Kleveland is equally robust. "In spite of all the criticism – not least from British journalists – you haven't been able to kill the Eurovision Song Contest. It's about innocence, fun and competition. Everyone sits at home giving points. Just as many mark the performers for their dresses as for their songs – that emphasises what it's all about."

She hopes the love affair between Norway and the Eurovision Song Contest continues to blossom. "Norway is really interested in music," she enthuses. "Everyone sings in a choir. On our National Day, we will have 110,000 kids playing in brass bands. It's a very strange country."

The Eurovision Song Contest will be broadcast from Oslo on BBC1 at 8pm next Saturday night.



Photo: BBC



Future cabinet material? Cliff Richard, top, who came a close second in 1968 with "Congratulations". Asa Kleveland, above, the current Norwegian Minister for Culture, as she looked way back in the 1966 contest. Photo: PA. This year's presenters, right, Ingrid Bryn and Morten Harket from A-ha, Norway's biggest pop export. Photo: Morten Krugvold



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SUNDAY EXPRESS

# arts reviews

## CLASSICAL

Evgeny Kissin  
Royal Festival Hall, London

There was a buzz in the hall – and it wasn't just excitement. By Adrian Jack

Nearly half of Evgeny Kissin's piano recital at the Royal Festival Hall on Wednesday evening duplicated the programme of his latest CD, recorded last year. Perhaps that contributed to a sell-out, although worship of the 25-year-old phenomenon has been growing apace in this country, fuelled by earlier recordings and two previous London recitals, both remarkable.

This was not such a happy occasion. At the end of the Bach-Busoni *Chaconne*, pushed for volume further than a rather tinny-sounding piano could support, a high-pitched whine announced that someone had probably not adjusted their hearing-aid. It persisted all the way through Schumann's *Fantasia*, like a malicious experiment in aversion therapy. It's a mystery that Kissin never seemed to notice it, though he had an accident at the very beginning, which might have given him an excuse to walk off and get the problem sorted out. So far as one could judge in the circumstances, his performance was full of wonderful things, though he streamlined the jumps at the end of the middle movement so that the rhythmic detail and any sense of excitement were lost.

After the interval, an apologetic announcement was made and, fortunately, the problem didn't recur. Beethoven's "Moonlight" Sonata brought the house down, if only because the last movement was whipped into a whirlwind that would have satisfied even Liszt's cravings for explosive sonorities. But there were plenty of those to come, from Liszt himself. The piano fairly rattled at the end of "Harmonies du soir", though it survived for a pummelling, in "Wilde Jagd", as merciless as it can ever have had to bear. Even the delicate, quicksilver vision of "Feux-follets" took on a savage edge.

It would have been good if Kissin had offered some relief, some sign of subtler feeling in his encores. Instead, he played to the gallery, with Liszt's vulgarly overblown arrangement of Schumann's exquisite song, *Frühlingsnacht*, then a *Perpetuum mobile* by Carl Maria von Weber, played much louder than the composer himself can ever have imagined, and finally, Tausig's version of Schubert's *Marche militaire*, with added cannon effects. As we came, somewhat stunned, out of the hall, there was a resounding retort to the whole spectacle in the form of a rave party under Waterloo arches, which sounded like a full-scale military operation.

Evgeny Kissin plays Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 3 with the Philharmonia Orchestra / Yevgeny Svetlanov. 8pm 4 June Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-212 3333) and 7.30pm 5 June Barbican Hall, London (0171-638 8891)

## THEATRE Misfits, Royal Exchange, Manchester

It has all the right ingredients: Gable, Huston, and bickering Arthur and Marilyn. So why is the staging of the 1960 film's traumatic birth so dire, asks Paul Taylor



Lisa Eichhorn as Marilyn Monroe and James Clyde as Montgomery Clift in the misshapen 'Misfits'

Photograph: Stephen Vaughan

The craze lately has been for stage versions of films (*Les Enfants du Paradis*, *La Dolce Vita* et al). In *Misfits*, premiered now in a production by Gregory Hersov at the Royal Exchange, Alex Finlayson goes one step back, creating a play about the making of a movie.

To ambulance-chasers, *The Misfits* (shot in 1960 and released the following year) is certainly a more interesting proposition off-camera than on. There's Marilyn Monroe "so doped she doesn't know her ass from a day-old doughnut" (in the words of Finlayson's characters) and arriving on set with a lateness that would make Godot seem almost neurotically punctual. There are the protracted death throes of her marriage to the film's author, Arthur Miller, and his bitter power-struggle with her black-garbed method-acting guru, Paula Strasberg, whose idea of constructive advice on the reading of a line went something like "walk through all those little sadnesses rubbing at your ankles, calling your name".

Then there are the co-stars: Clark Gable (whom Monroe once believed to be her father) and Montgomery Clift, gay and in a state because of a recent disfiguring car accident; a volatile mix, particularly in the baking heat of the Nevada Desert. It's no wonder that the director, John Huston, took to spending his nights at the gambling tables, knocking back whiskey and losing thousands of dollars, as the film lurched to an eventual 40 days over-schedule.

Could you make a boring play from this material? Only too easily, it seems. *Misfits* is bitty, unaccumulative, lacks either energy

or bite and leaves you wondering what it was Finlayson wanted to say through this famous story. In the final scene, set on the darkening sound-stage at the end of the shoot, Marilyn (successfully evoked by Lisa Eichhorn) tells Miller how she would have written his character, if he could have taken it. The implication is that it can be less selfish to receive and that, in his excessive concern to create the role of Roslyn for her in the movie, Miller neglected her by neglecting to want things from her. The trouble is, though, that the play never sufficiently establishes that this role was constructed as a gift or that, through it, Miller was wishfully trying to make what comes true for the character come true for his wife. This will be even less clear to those who have not seen the film or read Miller's odiously self-serving account of the period in *Timebends*.

Finlayson offers remarkably few fresh insights into the problem of being, or being with, Monroe and there are some terrible wallowings in cliché, especially during the scene where the star is joined in a hospital room by her former selves: a frightened little blonde girl and a pre-peroxide Norma Jean who gives her a pep talk: "Grow up. Nobody's your father or your mother. Who needs them? We got the camera." I'm ready for my sick bag, Mr De Mille. A talented cast of 17 has been assembled for what I'm afraid has more merit as a job creation scheme than as a play.

To 1 June. Booking: 0161-833 9833

## CLASSICAL

Evelyn Glennie  
QEH, London

Wild antics from a woman and her marimba. By Nicholas Williams

Evolution may have led to the aardvark and the octopus, but it can certainly deny any claim on Evelyn Glennie's marimba. Standing centre stage during her South Bank recital on Wednesday, this rare beast with its cluster of metal resonators looked like the piping of a mobile air-conditioning unit, or an exhibit from the Saatchi gallery.

Come to think of it, Glennie's show had little to do with nature, much with art and artifice. Running and jumping, singing and miming, her antics came close to the Chinese State Circus in style and the Théâtre de Complicité in taste. It's a class act: the lighting, staging and mix of high- and low-brow were perfectly judged to please. Even her deportment, casual yet assured, showed none of the stiffness seen even among seasoned performers.

And yet, for all the hype, her playing, though surely honed by hours of learning and practice, is most astounding in its sense of spontaneity and improvised freedom. From the spoken introductions that punctuated the concert, one got the sense that this applied to her pieces as well. For example, to the American composer David Lang's marimba arrangement of John Kay's *Born to be Wild* she added frog-mouthed cowbells and home-made cymbals drilled through with screws, while chanting the words in a gruff mezzo register to make a striking end to the first half. Like the concluding slapstick item, Django Bates's *My Dream Kitchen*, that's bound to amuse audiences throughout the country as she begins a national tour. There's no lack of challenging new or recent music: pieces for percussion that 30 years ago would never have been written and even now would be orphans without the support of an Evelyn Glennie recital.

One such was the opening number for pitched drums, triangles and cymbals, David Horne's *Reaching Out*. The idea of the sponsor, BT, that the piece should gradually extend to all the instruments of the ensemble in the way that telecommunications have reached out to the Scottish islands seemed a dubious construct, but no matter: the work's musical logic was enough to justify its place in the programme. Likewise, Glennie's own *Madness* for a quartet of pitched drums and a variety of stick and hand effects, and Kevin Volans's *She Who Sleeps with a Small Blanket* were worthy additions to the percussion repertoire.

But the soul of the evening remained that marimba, heard to magical effect in the hushed, tremulous chords of Andrew Thomas's *Merlin* and in Keiko Abe's whimsically oriental *Variations on Japanese Children's Songs*. Played with soft sticks, the instrument has an organ-like tone of intimate reflection. It found a voice in Glennie's own *Light in Darkness*, but it was the encore number, the *Londonderry Air*, that caught the sound to perfection.

Evelyn Glennie is at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool, 7.30pm tomorrow (01253 28372), and on tour to 25 May

## TELEVISION Murder Most Horrid / BBC2 In which our comedy heroine, Dawn French, tries hard to be just another comedy heroine. And, mercifully, fails. By Jasper Rees

Read the review of any sitcom's first outing and the truism is almost always there. Too early to judge it... hasn't had time to settle... the characters are too busy telling you they are to let you know what they're like... should pick up in the second episode or, even better, the second series.

The half-hour comedy drama cannot fall back on the safety net of deferred assessment, because the characters have to convince you of their comic richness before the curtain comes down for ever. In "Girl Friday", the first story in a new series of *Murder Most Horrid*, Dawn French was at it immediately, not to mention literally. To the sound of squeaky panting, the camera pans across the mezzanine of a modest but tasteful loft until it locates the source of the

noise. There on the bed in all her glory is Sally (French) having the life humped out of her by a lover whose face we never see. Sally is an obsessively efficient secretary to a suave bigwig in construction, and mid-coitus she gets the urge to call the office; her long-suffering partner pulls on his trousers and, undetected, walks out of her life. A wealth of information and entertainment has been impressively squeezed into no more than a minute of screen time.

So French doesn't get to be Beatrice Dally in *Betty Blue* and achieve the orgasm which, from what we know of her screen personality, would probably not be a timorous affair. This is a good example of *Horrid* heroically refusing simply to play to the strengths of its star, in this case her sheer

unfettered loudness. But pretty soon the script has given in. At work, Sally toes the line in the morning but, nursing an unrequited crush for her boss, has long liquid lunchbreaks and comes back to the office pulling funny faces, rolling her eyes and running through the comic business that French can't resist. When she smacks into a glass door, there's a real sense of guilt as you laugh at such a hackneyed stunt.

In one scene, she's even doing hamming it up quite badly, but it turns out that her character is only acting drunk. There's quite a fine distinction between acting hilariously and playing someone who's hammy as a pretence, but it's probably not something that *Horrid* spends much time dwelling on.

The plot is not a complicated thing either, as there are only so many twists you can coil into a half-hour thriller. The boss (Nigel Havers in full cad mode) knocks out his wife; Sally, the only witness, throttles her as he calls the ambulance, and they dump the body. She circuitously lands him in prison and then blackmails him all the way to the altar.

Paul Smith's script has some nice touches. There's some dialogue in Dutch for French, a reference to afternoon rates at the thinly disguised "Lanesbrook" hotel, and French is given a line she was born to deliver but somehow never quite did to Jennifer Saunders. "Tell me I don't look a day over 25 and I'll sit on your knob all night." To make an offer like that takes real balls.



Mr and Mrs Underact: Nigel Havers and Dawn French BBC



### THE BALLET

#### ANASTASIA

A reworked revival of Kenneth MacMillan's 1971 flop three-act ballet (an extension of his one-act work for Lynn Seymour) with designs by Bob Crowley and danced by Viviana Durando.

#### overview

#### critical view

Louise Levene was unamused. "They said it couldn't be done and I'm afraid they were right." "Narratively thin and choreographically padded," agreed the *Times*. "Triumphant... a major work of art," heralded the *FT*. "Shattering... left the audience applauding and refusing to leave," gasped the *Independent on Sunday*. "The whole evening was a triumph," announced the *Sunday Telegraph*.

#### on view

Further performances at the Royal Opera House, London WC2 (0171-304 4000) on 13, 14, 15 (matinee), 17 May.

#### our view

MacMillan devotees should attend the matinee to see Sarah Widdor in the title role.

### THE PLAY

#### MIND MILLIE FOR ME

After the success of *An Absolute Turkey*, Sir Peter Hall translates (with Nicky Free) and directs another Feydeau farce with Felicity Kendal, Neil Pearson and Nicholas Le Prevost with designs by Gerald Scarfe.

"Felicity Kendal so determinedly bubbles with mischief, it's a wonder she doesn't do herself one," observed Paul Taylor. "Never quite achieves that blissful lift-off," concluded the *Telegraph*. "No real anguish and no truly desperate comedy," asserted the *FT*. "Funny, sometimes very funny, occasionally hilarious," admitted the *Times*. "A thoroughly pleasant evening," smiled the *Guardian*.

At the Haymarket Theatre Royal, London SW1 (0171-930 8800).

Kendal runs the gamut from pert to winsome... but her fans won't mind. Be warned: This is not one of Feydeau's finest.

### THE BOOK

#### BABEL TOWER

AS Byatt's first novel since the Booker prize-winning *Possession* mixes a straightforward tale of Frederick and her friends in the 1930s with a pastiche novel that ends up on trial of a Lady Chatterley's Lover.

Hugo Bannock felt that "Byatt really lays it on with a trowel... adds cumbersome pretension to what is otherwise a simple, readable novel." "Impassive, powerful and cumbersome," declared the *Sunday Telegraph*. "Byatt's imagination does, just, keep pace with her analytical intelligence," declared the *Sunday Times*. "Exceptional gravity and serious charm," enthused the *Spectator*.

Cliborn & Vendus, £16.99

She hummed and serenaded pages of Eric Linklater, mathematics, pornography and the *Book of Quixote*. Byatt cannot be accused of a lack of ambition.

### THE FILM

#### STONEWALL

A fictional account of the Stonewall riots, the birth of the modern lesbian and gay movement. The last film by Alan Parker, the man behind *BBC2's Arena* and director of *The Lost Language of Cranes*.

Adam Marc-Jones found its energy "positively blithe" the strengths of the film far outweigh its weaknesses. "Lacking that vital spark," said *Time Out*. "Ninety minutes of stalling, floundering and agit-prop agit-proping," snarled the *FT*. "Starting too fast over powerful material... I wish this had been a better memorial," admitted the *Times*. "Its heart is very definitely in the right place," said the *Guardian*.

98 mins, cert. 15. At Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) and on limited release in Brighton, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

At last, a drag film from a genuinely gay perspective. Winner of the London Film Festival and the British Film Festival Audience award.

#### KEY



EXCELLENT



GOOD



OK



POOR



DEADLY



# Smouldering behind the lens



Haunted by sexual guilt and self-destructive forces, embarrassed by intellectuals and stunned by beauty, David Lean became a dreamer on an epic scale. Sir David Puttnam (left) reads a definitive and beautifully produced biography of the great British film director

David Lean was a director entirely enraptured by beauty. Whether it be Pip roaming the foggy marshes of the Thames Estuary in *Great Expectations* or Peter O'Toole as *Lawrence of Arabia* wandering the undulating desert sands, Lean's films continually conjure up an expressive romanticism that stands in stark contrast to the then-dominant British tradition of dour realism. Increasingly, that romanticism expressed itself through a taste for epic grandeur, which ultimately threatened to defeat – even to consume – his remarkable talent. But at the height of his powers, in *Lawrence of Arabia* or *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, he displayed a command of cinematic scale and spectacle which has rarely been surpassed. Little wonder that Steven Spielberg, who shares Lean's taste for painting on a large canvas, should cite him as a major influence. He was truly, as an American critic once put it, "a poet of the far horizon."

It could be difficult to get close to Lean. He had a habit of abstracting himself from his immediate surroundings and gazing into the middle distance. His conversation was punctuated by pregnant silences. Kay Walsh, his first wife, saw all this as one more sign of Lean's brooding guilt. She described him as "a disturbed, split man" and alluded to darkly self-destructive forces that lay smouldering just below Lean's fastidiously elegant surface.

He never shone academically. Aged seven, he was told that he might never learn to read or write, and obviously didn't enjoy schoolwork. For the rest of his life, he would feel uncomfortable in the company of intellectuals. In part, this accounts for his deeply ingrained mistrust of reviewers, whom he looked on as a cerebral and malevolent tribe, forever sharpening their knives in readiness for some act of critical savagery.

His parents were Quakers, and this created a legacy of guilt – notably regarding sex – which he never really managed to throw off. It was because of that guilt, as much as anything, that he worked his way through six marriages. For Lean was haunted by the idea of impotence, and as soon as he felt his sexual energies waning, he would be compelled to find some new woman to rejuvenate them. But his sexual anxieties also energised him creatively. "If you want to make a good movie," he said, "get yourself a new wonderful woman."

Cinema started out as a hobby, its excitement and energy a much-needed antidote to the tedious routine of schoolwork. He would

return to his home in the dismal Croydon suburbs bubbling over with enthusiasm about some new movie he'd just seen in the grand cinemas of the West End. Lean was determined to make his career in cinema, and his father found him a job at the Gaumont studios in Shepherd's Bush. Starting as an unpaid teaboy, he quickly worked his way through the ranks to become one of the industry's most admired editors. Michael Powell, with whom Lean worked on *49th Parallel*, regarded him as the best film editor since D.W. Griffith.

His early forays into directing, such as *This Happy Breed*, *Blithe Spirit* and, of course, *Brief Encounter*, remain satisfying enough. But it was with his two adaptations of Dickens, *Great Expectations* and *Oliver Twist*, that he first emerged as a really outstanding director. Spielberg called him a "visual novelist", and it's easy to see why. Yet, curiously, before he decided to make *Great Expectations*, Lean hadn't even read the book. Cinema became the prism through which he was able to understand and appreciate the literature that had defeated him at school.

As his films became more expensive, and he became more reliant on American money, so Lean became increasingly distrustful of producers. "I think it's time that all of us movie-makers band together to get rid of these crooks, every producer who has ever had his hands in our pockets," he told a somewhat startled audience at the Cannes Film Festival in 1988. When I met him to discuss producing *Out of Africa*, which he wanted to direct, he instantly launched into a tirade against producers, insisting that he only wanted to work with me because I was "different". But I realised that his dislike was, to all intents and purposes, generic. I too would have inevitably joined the ranks of those who had "betrayed" him.

His ideal producer was a man like J. Arthur Rank who, when Lean suggested making a film of *Great Expectations*, said simply, "Go away and make it. Don't spend more than you have to. Tell us when we can see it." Distributors too were vilified. One can't help feeling that Lean's backers, had they been asked, may have seen things rather differently. After all, as the last chapters of Kevin Brownlow's monumental 800-page *David Lean – A Biography* (Richard Cohen, £25) reveal, he could be incredibly obstinate and uncompromising, even with long-time collaborators like the screenwriter Robert Bolt.

While he was preparing to make *Doctor*



Above: Lean with his second wife, Ann Todd, in the Fifties; top, Peter O'Toole as *Lawrence of Arabia* in Lean's 1962 masterpiece

*Zhivago*, Lean was greatly struck by a quote from Tolstoy: "The more a man devotes himself to beauty, the further he moves away from goodness." But sadly, his reach seemed increasingly to exceed his grasp, and where he aimed solely for beauty he ended up capturing something more akin to a cloying pretentiousness. He himself recognised that his romantic impulses might seduce him into "picturesque falsehood". Certainly that was how most critics viewed *Ryan's Daughter*, perhaps the only Lean film which seems devoid of an identifiable creative ambition.

Yet the fire never went out completely. In his seventies, he dreamed of making a film based on the mutiny aboard the *Bounty*. But the project foundered, destroyed by soaring costs and endless fights with producers. He turned instead to a version of E.M. Forster's

*A Passage to India* and shortly before his death, at the age of 83, he still harboured the ambition of bewing an epic from *Nostromo*. Joseph Conrad's sprawling novel of self-consuming greed and ambition. It was a dream never realised.

Film historian Brownlow, another national treasure, has written a monumental 800-page life which parallels his subject's taste for the epic sweep. Brownlow is the author of some of the most influential and authoritative books ever published on the history of early film. Like *The Parade's Gone By*, his classic study of silent cinema, his Lean biography is really an all-encompassing oral history which seems certain to become the standard work on the director's life. The book is meticulously researched – so much so that the wealth of production detail occasionally

threatens to overwhelm the narrative. But on the whole the sheer variety of voices, and the way in which Brownlow's own passion for cinema keeps breaking through, makes for an enthralling and panoramic view of the director's life. Quite apart from anything else, this has to be one of the most beautifully produced books published on cinema in recent years. It's packed with wonderful production stills and photographs from Lean's personal collection, all of which are superbly presented.

"I think we're only at the beginning of making movies," Lean once said, in a phrase that stands as the closing epigraph to the book. In Kevin Brownlow, he is lucky enough to have a biographer who truly does set out to do justice to the strength and depth of an ambition that, for more than seven decades, remained focussed on the beauty of that "far horizon".

## Pretenders at the Palace

From council estate to Cannes, Archway to Absolute Beginners, the Powell-Woolley story is a salutary tale. By Christopher Hawtree

The Eggs Have Landed: The Rise and Fall of Palace Pictures by Angus Finney, Heinemann, £16.99

Scarcely a publishing season goes by without a breathless account of the crazed collapse of another company which once appeared all-conquering. This time, the money so rashly scattered on the winds is that of Palace Pictures. It is a history which the publishers would have us believe is "all flavoured with a distinctly Eighties nostalgia".

Certainly Nik Powell and Steve Woolley made the *de rigueur* oddball – but effective – entrepreneurial couple. Powell's education was straddled between his schoolfriend Richard Branson's fledgling Virgin outfit and, even wilder, Sussex University. Woolley, too bright for the denizens of the Archway council estate on which he was brought up, had sought adolescent refuge in the darkness of all those now-vanished repertory cinemas of the Seventies and later clipped tickets as an usher at the Screen on the Green in Islington. Powell's eventual disengagement with Virgin, which was to cost him £96m in lost

shares, brought him in closer touch with Woolley, who had risen through such ranks as there were in the world of independent movie theatres. It was a partnership which in an amazingly short time would have them seeking, and battling around, vast sums of money.

Angus Finney is enthralled by all this, so much so that anybody would think that he is chronicling the making of *Citizen Kane* rather than *The Company of Wolves* or what he takes to be the incendiary content of the lumpy *Scandal*. The old gag of the book's title is wit itself compared with Finney's prose, which has a numbing, mock-immediate tone. Insufficiently distanced from this pell-mell story, Finney loses track of the fact that cinema-makers never turn up because one particular company is behind a movie.

Such is the nature of the business that innumerable people cross the path of Powell and Woolley, which means that the thumbnail portraits should have been nearly pared if the

book were to be less of a cuttings-driven blur. Every so often, such familiar anecdotes as Joanna Whalley's non-nudity in *Scandal* are alleviated by a defter vignette, whether it be a drunken debauch at Cannes or the cool professionalism with which Ennio Morricone deliberately damaged a demo tape so that David Leland was obliged to sing him the sort of music needed for *The Big Man*.

For all this, what is missing from the book is any real sense of cinema. As one looks through the two lists of Palace movies, those distributed by it and those it produced, one realises how much better the firm was at buying in other companies' work than it was at generating the stuff. On the one hand we have the likes of *Blood Simple*, *Paris Texas* and *When Harry Met Sally*; on the other, there is that chunker *Absolute Beginners*, which anybody could have seen was a no-no from the start, and movie after movie rooted in television – indeed, so many of them demanded a six-pack

within easy reach that Adrian Turner was understating the case with his celebrated remark that a typical Palace movie comprises "fast cars, loud music and blow jobs".

The initial lack of interest here in *The Company of Wolves* was surely the right one. After the twist in the plot and Forrest Whitaker's bravura performance, there is nothing in it that requires a large screen. Every so often Finney lambasts Channel 4's failure to invest in one mooted production or other, but there are times when one must wonder whether its funding of a movie – even the prospect of it – is in fact baleful. That small screen only exacerbates the British inability to think in terms of a movie proper.

The crash of Palace need not vex posterity. It will take products of rather more clout than *Backbeat* and *The Neon Bible* for its successor, Scala Productions, to win over backers contemplating a lesson obvious to every reader of *The Eggs Have Landed* except its author.

## Also on general release ...

Up in the Air by Derek Jarman (Vintage, £8.99) First collection of the film-maker's scripts includes *Akenaten*, *Neurom* and *Sod 'Em*.

With Nails, Film Diaries of Richard E. Grant (Picador, £16.99) Grant's diaries of the 10 years spent in Hollywood after *Withnail and I* is a winsome collection of star-studded anecdotes (visiting sex shops with Liz Hurley,

escorting Sandra Bernhard to Madonna's place) and grumpy reflections on not being recognised in obscure airports: "nothing works...my luggage is lost...people look as ugly as Belgians..." Poor boy.

Past Imperfect. History According to the Movies ed Mark C. Carnes (Cassell, £20) Relationship between great historical events and their interpretation on film.

## A talent for barking orders

The diary of a screenwriting life paints an unlovely portrait of Lindsay Anderson. By Christopher Bray

Going Mad in Hollywood, by David Sherwin, Deutsch, £17.99

I hate all the bullshit of film-making," Lindsay Anderson once told David Sherwin. "What I'd really like to do is set up a hotel and give food and lodging and good advice. I'd be very good at it." Sherwin – who wrote *If...?*, *Lucky Man* and *Brian's Song* for Anderson – offers lots of evidence for Anderson's hospitality in this book. But he has little that backs up Anderson's belief in his talents as a counsellor. Anderson didn't offer advice so much as bark orders.

Anderson was fond of saying that authority isn't necessary, yet he never spoke without sounding like he was swatting a fly. Any director needs his share of bombast, but Anderson was as dictatorial off-set as he was on. He gave his actors enormous freedoms. In return they worshipped him. They thought he was loosening up their artistry but really he was just groping at what he wanted. Mal-

colm McDowell got his part in *If...* because when he auditioned he hadn't read the script and was forced to scabble for effects.

With its waxy numb performances and its switches between colour and monochrome, *If...* was commonly held to be a Brechtian snook cocked at bourgeois narrative form. Anderson called the movie an insult to a nation that deserved insulting. In fact, lack of money was behind the changes in film stock, and the feeling that the actors were just cruising was down to weak scripting. Beaky and cawing, Anderson was a genius at bringing out the worst in others. David Sherwin seems pleasant enough until he and Anderson meet up. Walking around a seaside town, Anderson spots one cafe selling egg and chips for 65p and one for 75p. Why, he wonders, doesn't everyone go to the cheaper cafe? Because, the two decide, men and women are stupid.

When Malcolm McDowell drones in *If...* that "war is the last possible creative act", the movie is in no doubt he is right. The film only really sparks when it starts killing "stupid" people off. Sherman wrote the movie when he was a teenager, so he has an excuse for this nihilistic posturing. But Anderson was in his mid-forties when he directed *If...*. It takes a life of rare privilege for a man that age to have a child's brutal naivety.

A cobbled-together diary of Sherwin's life since the early Sixties, *Going Mad in Hollywood* is a chaotic whorl of memoranda. Its title refers to a period of manic depression Sherwin suffered. Fortunately, there has always been some woman or other on hand to look after him. Like Anderson, Sherwin is a pre-feminist thinker. Women are there to serve and be served. The only character to be given a Brechtian nomenclature in *If...* is that sexist cut-out

"The Girl". This book, on the other hand, is studded with incisive cameos. But like Sherwin's movies, it lacks drive. It flits between Hollywood and Britain, but only in the pages dealing with Anderson does it ever blush with life. Even its title is inapposite. "Life with Lindsay Anderson" would have been more accurate, as well as more commercial. But as Sherwin admits, he has no flair for salesmanship.

Aside from John Schlesinger's *Sunday Bloody Sunday*, few of Sherwin's scripts have worked on have made the screen. Perhaps that is a good thing. *Venom* ("Jaws on dry land") and Jon Voight's *Robin Hood* (with Bob Dylan down to play Alan A. Dale) hardly sound the stuff on which reputations are made. Yet they show that for all his firebrand anger, Sherwin would easily sell out to Tinseltown's trivia. Lindsay Anderson spent his time insulting the world, but at least he never insulted himself.

ff

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# A chronicle of horsemen, blood and firebirds

Stay-at-home provincial Jan Morris is bowled over by the combative, lachrymose, scheming and love-lorn denizens of a city of the mind

St Petersburg: A cultural history by Solomon Volkov, Sinclair-Stevenson, £20

It is perfectly proper that this astonishing book should be reviewed by a writer of traditional English prose who lives in the bowels of rural Wales, prefers to be bed by 11 and seldom meets an artist from one literary festival to the next. A more metropolitan critic might not be quite so astounded by the unending passion of cultural life in St Petersburg, as presented for us here by an ebullient and affectionate son of the city. A New Yorker, especially, might feel perfectly at home with it all, if only because a stream of prodigious emigré talent has created a second St Petersburg over there, so that Stravinsky, Balanchine, Prokofiev, Nabokov, Brodsky, Horowitz, Yessou, Hefetz, Nathan Milstein, Solomon Volkov and all have come to seem more or less home-grown.

But for a bourgeois European provincial like me, it is all a marvel and everything about the book excited me. Even its translation from the original Russian, undertaken by somebody whose first language was evidently not English, sometimes has an exotic tang to it; while the story itself is told with such love and intimate knowledge, is so surging with marvellous characters, and with historical episodes tragic and inspiring, that as I read it over my cocoa of an evening, it quite took my breath away.

Such is the way of the Russians, all blood and firebird. Mr Volkov is describing for us what he likes to call the St Petersburg "myths" – like it so much, in fact, that he uses the word several hundred times in the course of the book. This legend Volkov sees fostered by the deliberate isolation of the city, away in the cold northern marshes, by the classical grace of its architecture and by the will of the successive despots who ruled it: but he sees it enacted above all by its writers, dancers, artists and musicians, starting with Pushkin, ending with Akhmatova, and never without a genius in between.



Urban mythos: The Nevsky Prospekt in the heyday of St Petersburg, circa 1910

It was Pushkin, with his seminal poem "The Bronze Horseman", who first recognised St Petersburg to be the very epitome of conflict between the State and the individual – Peter the Great had built the place with slave labour, killing at least 100,000 in the process – and down the generations the city's artists endlessly fought the fight against tsars as against commissars. What a roster of towering names – Gogol, Dostoyevsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Musorgsky, Borodin, Rachmaninoff, Blok, Benois, Diaghilev, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich! What risks they ran, what loves they loved, what thrilling lives they led! What schools and

counter-schools they formed, now as rivals, now as clandestine allies – acmeists and symbolists and maximalists and suprematists, declaiming their poems in the cellar of The Stray Dog, bursting into tears at the ends of symphonies! It makes the heart sing to read about them.

But it could be dangerous and depressing, and often the artistic life was pursued through a kind of twilight – the famous white light of the St Petersburg night. Volkov subtly evokes

the disturbing ambivalences that always linked Art and State in this city, whether as St Petersburg under the tsars, Petersburg under the Bolsheviks or Leningrad under the Stalinists.

The tsars were patrons as well as censors: Nicholas I called Pushkin "the wisest man in Russia". The Communists cynically recognised the power of art: celebrated practitioners painted posters for them, decorated propaganda plates, made films and danced. Many an artist

felt it necessary to co-operate with despotism, if only to give art a chance; many more sacrificed their careers, their liberty and even their lives rather than compromise their integrity.

In the long term, of course, art always wins: in the short term, as Brodsky once told his boorish interrogators, they had all the power of the KGB behind them, he had only "half a room and a typewriter". Nevertheless, through the worst days of Stalin's Great Terror and the Cold

War, the artists of Leningrad somehow managed to keep the flame alive, in texts too subtle for bureaucrats to grasp, in coded historical allusions, in the underground distribution system that was *samizdat*, and now then in gestures of glorious defiance.

In 1948 the officially denounced Fifth Symphony of Shostakovich was performed in Leningrad to the tumultuous applause of an audience that heard it as a declaration of personal liberty: the conductor Yevgeny Mravinsky, in an impulse that might well have cost him his life, seized the score and held it high above his head in a deliberate cock of the snook at tyranny at all times and in all places, but especially in St Petersburg.

For the city's intellectuals always thought of it as St Petersburg or, more often, simply as "Piter". For them, as this book lovingly demonstrates, it was more than a city, more than a country, but a state of the soul – a *mythos* – which impregnated everything they thought and created. They took it with them wherever they went, whether to the Gulags or Manhattan. Pushkin's image of the Bronze Horseman refers to Etienne Falconer's heroic equestrian statue of Peter the Great beside the Neva, and this was far more than just a civic icon, like the Eiffel Tower or Sydney Opera House, but a promise, a threat and an enchantment, all in one.

In 1991, another statue of Peter the Great went up in his city, by the emigre sculptor Mikhail Chemiakin. It is in a very different kind. Slumped massive but resigned in a chair, the old despot stares in a glazed way into space, and he seems to be tapping his bony fingers impatiently on the chair-arms. He might be facing his accusers at a war-crimes trial. His head, taken from a deathmask, is eerily small. His expression is at once haughty and defensive.

Is this the new emblem of Mr Volkov's "mythos"? Having survived two protracted despotisms, four changes of name, a revolution, two wars and the most terrible of sieges, St Petersburg now seems to have settled into an all-too-familiar rumour of crime and general squalor, compounded as usual by tourism. "Where are you galloping, proud steed?" demanded Pushkin of Falconer's Peter the Great. "And where will you plant your hooves?" Chemiakin's Peter is clearly going nowhere at all. Could it possibly be that this tremendous city, so stunningly creative down the years, so familiar with genius as with sorrow, will at last learn what it is like to live in uninteresting times?

## Audiobooks

**Come to Grief**  
read by Tony Britton

**The Vicar of Wakefield**  
read by Christopher Robbie

Dick Francis's latest novel *Come to Grief* (Chivers, 10 hrs 46 minutes, £15.95 only by mail order 01225 335336) takes his former champion jockey turned private investigator Sid Hall into macabre new territory. Tony Britton's versatile reading brings buttoned-up hero, distraught green wellie brigade and heavy men in suits into startlingly immediate life. The twists and turns of the plot make it unturnoffable. Oliver Goldsmith's *The Vicar of Wakefield* (Naxos, abridged, 4 hrs approx, £7.99) is a tragicomic cliff-hanger that pokes fun at aspirations and gullibility but lauds honest virtues. Christopher Robbie conveys Dr Primrose's innocent caginess, his wife's breathless foolishness and Mr Thornhill's lazy hauteur brilliantly, and makes it easy to understand why this little classic has been in print for two and a half centuries.

Christina Hardyment

## Who's reading whom

**Esther Freud** has been transfixed by a ripping yarn of plagues, fires and Quakerism

The story of a courtier in the reign of Charles II didn't sound like my cup of tea at all and I wouldn't have picked it up if a friend hadn't thrust it into my hands in a bookshop. In fact Rose Tremain's *Restoration* (Sceptre) is sheer genius. Her portrait of Robert Merivel, vulgar, vain, a sycophant with an obsession with beautiful clothes, who falls from the King's favour and undergoes his own "restoration" of the soul, is unputdownable. My boyfriend started reading it and hardly spoke to me for a week.

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## Marking the salami

Amanda Mitchison reads some child inspired insights into the Italian psyche

An Italian Education by Tim Parks, Secker, £15.99

In 1981 the author Tim Parks, aiming to support a novel-writing habit by teaching English, went to live in Italy and ended up in a village outside Verona, a sort of Mediterranean equivalent of Cricklewood. He married. He had a son. He wrote some well-received novels and *Italian Neighbours*, a very funny book about ordinary, humdrum Cricklewood Italy. Then, in the late Eighties, he committed the most momentous, unthinkable act of folly – something that today no self-respecting upwardly mobile, Italian parent would dream of: he conceived a second child.

Child number two means that Parks and his Italian wife Rita have to buy a house. Only, what with all the Italian middle class cheating on their taxes, squirrelling it all away in high-yield government bonds and therefore being able to buy up apartments for their own children, there is nothing to buy in their village. Instead they are forced to buy a flat in a building not yet finished.

The day after the second child is born there is a meeting of the new condominium. Parks discovers that most of his neighbours are unhappy with the security precautions. The front doors to the flats may weigh 200 pounds each and have an armoured steel core, but what they really need is a communal, remote-controlled self-locking gate with flashing yellow lights on the top.

Parks balks at the cost of this contraption. He asks if there is really any need... Then, with a flash of inspiration, he suddenly remembers that he has read in the papers, just the other week, of a child being killed when one of these automatic gates trapped his neck. A horrified silence descends. Parks thinks he has clinched it. How clever he was setting at loggerheads the Italian obsession with security against that other obsession, the safety of those precious young children.

Months later the neighbours invite him to a barbecue. The subject of the remote controlled self-locking gates comes up again. The neighbour has now, it turns out, found a company producing a completely child-safe gate with a light-sensitive trigger costing only £900 more than the basic version... Parks capitulates.

Such little daily incidents are the stuff of this book which is sequel to the Cricklewood Italy book and almost as funny. This journey starts with Rita's announcement of her second pregnancy while the family are sitting on the beach at Pescara, and continues through the birth, to play-school – where the days' bowel movements of each child, detailing number, consistency etc, are marked on a board – to the childminder, to expeditions, hobbies and then back at Pescara six years later when the birth of a third child is imminent.

The intention is, as Parks explains, to describe "how it happens that an Italian becomes an Italian", and how his own children are growing up foreigners (and speaking a dialect he cannot fully understand.) And in Italy, which is such a child-orientated culture, this also provides an effective focus for looking at that most ineffable quality – the national psyche.

By and large he carries it off. He is very funny about Italians' foibles – their hypochondria, their hedonism, their intolerance of bad weather, their obsession with diplomas and meaningless bits of paper, their sexism, their self-sacrificing but also highly controlling vision of family relations. His central preoccupation is the extraordinary balancing act Italian society demands – and receives – from its people: the big-car, bright-lights, designer-label, gadget-ridden and exaggeratedly consumerist world of modern Italy and how it welds onto an older peasant reality of untarmacked roads and women

who go shopping in their slippers, and Dickensian child druggies who serve customers in country trattorias.

This contrast is evinced in extraordinary ways; often it is even seen between generations of the same family. Parks's father-in-law – and I don't think he is joking – claims to have been brought up in a household where in the evening the end of the salami was marked with a pencil to stop nighttime nibbling.

Usually the Italians sail through the contradictions. A certain instinctive theatricality, a happy acceptance of the difference – enormous difference in Italy's case – between rules and reality, between how things are supposed to be and how they really are, helps them. Only occasionally do they come unstuck. The key dilemma facing Italians is how to live in a beautiful, spotless flat and yet spoil your child rotten.

And, by our more robust standards, children are spoilt indeed – indulged, coddled, cuddled. Everyone is nice to them. When Parks takes his children round the village, they are fed sweets and chucked under the chin at every street corner. The weather is better. The food is better. They are not forced to eat what they do not like. There is – think of it – no word in Italian for "bedtime." This may all seem a bit cloying and over-comfortable. At the end of the book one is well and truly ready for a bracing walk or a stern matronly voice shouting "Because I say so". But in the long run, it is hard not to conclude that having a happier time must be good for you.

It must account for why Italian children are nicer than British kids and less likely to take to air guns and chopping the heads off the class hamsters. It may also account for why, compared with their British counterparts, Italian adolescents are more confident, more settled, more cheerful and (mysteriously) less spotty.

## Behind a wall of worship

A new volume of 'irony-free twitterings' enrages Edward Pearce

Journals 1987-1989 by Anthony Powell, Heinemann, £20

Twenty pounds, one feels, is a lot of money for a valetudinarian novelist telling one what he had to eat, which of his friends has died or come for lunch, and for using the expression "one feels" like royalty. But then Anthony Powell, he feels, is royalty. The book-jacket carries pinches of incense, promising "hours of impure pleasure", "infinitely re-readable", "enfolds with relaxed raffishness, full of good stories". Like this?

Monday 19 June: "In the afternoon V (Violet) and I watched on (Live) TV installation of King Juan Carlos of Spain as Knight of Garter in St George's Chapel Windsor. The weather was stewingly hot, perhaps accounting for Juan Carlos looking rather grumpy. I should have been sorry to have had to mill about in Garter robes on such a day, but Frank (Longford) who was present, nearly my twin, as spy as could be."

That entry is perfectly representative of the broad facility of too much of the journals. Yes it is nice that Powell (in his early eighties when this was written) has a pleasant life in his home in Frome, got an honour, and sees his friends. But we are asked to put up with the inconsequential working on the interminable.

There is minor chit-chat with the great; "Antonia asked if she and Harold Pinter could lunch here today after the wedding of Matthew Carr (son of Raymond Carr, Hispanist don) and Lady Anne Somerset, the Beaufores' daughter. She said lunch here was one of her bails for Harold to come. I asked if Harold would wear a tailcoat."

There are the books read or being reviewed, problems with a dental plate, fine points of genealogy – would that barony have descended in the female line? – 16 pages of "congrats on CH", the companionship of honour which he distinguishes lovingly from vulgar knighthoods. "Ted Heath put forward a knighthood about a dozen years ago. I was always brought up to think a knight (especially being a knight's lady)



Anthony Powell: a steadily nourished self-esteem

rather an awful thing to be, even in the services only survived by reason of duty done." There would be "the problem of getting V called 'Lady Violet' rather than 'Lady Powell' without unduly complicating the issue for unsophisticated people."

One reads this irony-free twittering in awe and realises that we are in the presence of Sir Walter Elliot of *Kellynch Hall*, who found such solace in the Baronetage. It is Sir Walter with well-reasoned judgments on literature, but implacably Sir Walter.

All diaries are made up of small things – Thomas Turner buying supplies for his Sussex shop, Parson Woodforde wolfing cold fowl or Pepps scoring with the ladies of Westminster Hall. Clearly Powell who, very reasonably, tells us that he could not now write a novel, intends these to join the established diaries.

Perhaps they will, and they may do a fearful injury to his reputation. What shine out here are a steadily nourished self-esteem, a comic pride of acquaintance and antecedent and a taking seriously of things not worth taking seriously: "Journalist Marcus Scriven... rang, asking if I had been a member of The Grid, (a rather stuffy undergraduate club at Oxford). I have an idea I once put up, but matters never proceeded further, as the club was

full of the least amusing Etonians, Wykehamists etc."

But little things in diaries can be endearing, as Powell truly is when he grieves for Trelawney his old cat and reproaches himself for letting others take Trelawney "to the vet to make an end of things". Trelawney has a moment of being cherished in death like "le petit Peloton", the little dog of Joachim du Bellay. But when a replacement is bought and as endearingly cherished, Powell spoils everything. The family providing the cat are called (amusingly I suppose) "Snook". So the kitten is to be called "Snook". The ear of the creative writer is closed to the odious condescension of this little act. Were he less full of himself, Powell would notice other people. But the book is as full of the esteem of other important or gently-bred people as the court circular ("which I have taken to scanning since my appearance there for my CH audience") is full of morning coats.

It is depressing. Of course there is intelligence and buzz here. The comments on an impressive reading – "with some skipping" he reads Richardson's *Clarissa* – are insightful. But he closes himself off behind a wall of worship tessellated from compliments, and by a worked-up grandeur of manner which leaves him writing the way Brian Sewell talks.

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## Maxwell vs Murdoch — the untold story

Stop Press: Archer writes witty book! By Hugo Barnacle

The Fourth Estate by Jeffrey Archer, HarperCollins, £16.99

Like some two-headed mutant offspring of Citizen Kane, Jeffrey Archer's new novel offers a thinly disguised account of the lives of Robert Maxwell and Rupert Murdoch, here called Richard Armstrong and Keith Townsend. Armstrong, born Lubji Hoch, is a Czech Jew who escapes to Britain in wartime. Later serving in the British army of occupation, he swindles himself the rights to a German scientific publisher's list, underpaying the royalties until he amasses enough cash to start taking over newspapers. He is a gourmand and a ferocious litigant. (One of Maxwell's sons has attempted to ban the book and failed.)

Townsend is an Oxford-educated Australian who inherits and vastly expands his family's newspaper business. He is more a gambler than a crook, though at school he does pinch some of the cricket pavilion fund to bet on a horse, in a comic foreshadowing of the pension-fund theft that will eventually cause Armstrong's ruin.

There is a rumour in book circles that Archer's manuscripts, as delivered to his publishers, are simply awful, and that the editors should take credit for the finished product. On the evidence of *The Fourth Estate*, this is untrue. In a properly edited text, we would not be told that Germany invaded Czechoslovakia in 1939, or that the Allies landed in Normandy on 5 June 1944, which can't be a simple misprint because the previous day is given as 4 June. And since the editors don't seem to have done any work, Archer must be held responsible for the novel's merits as well as its faults. So we can thank him for such observations as: "it was still a court-martial offence for a British officer to have an overdraft."

For the same reason, where any nicely turned sentences occur, we should put them down to authorial, not editorial talent. For example: "Two decisions were made when Keith was 11 which were to shape the rest of his life, and both of them caused him to burst into tears." Or, dealing with Armstrong this time, "People he had never been able to get an appointment with in the past were inviting him to lunch at the Garrick, even if, having met him, they didn't go as far as suggesting

he should become a member."

Though you might not guess it from his public persona, Archer has a dry sense of humour. Townsend, in the middle of a squash game at the New York Racquets Club, hears of a possible deal and flies straight to Heathrow, where "the cabbie didn't feel it was his place to ask why his fare was wearing a track suit and carrying a squash racket. Perhaps all the courts in New York were booked." Later, Armstrong drives through Manhattan to a key meeting and wonders how the other side got there ahead of him. "I suspect they walked," says his lawyer.

In the most sustained humorous sequence, Townsend gets bested by an ageing English heiress who has written an abysmal pornographic novel. She agrees to sell him her newspaper shares on condition he publishes the embarrassing book-buster. He puts lots of clever get-out clauses in the contract but she spots them all. No doubt more could be made of this Wodehousian material, but Archer doesn't do too badly.

Once Townsend acquires the paper, here called the *Globe* rather than the *Sun*, a curious thing happens. It is 1968, Wilson is at No.10 and Heath is opposition leader. Townsend instals his new editor, makes plans to turn the paper into a tabloid and prepares to tackle the print unions. A "few months" are said to have gone by, the situation is the same, but suddenly the background has changed. Thatcher now leads the opposition and is poised to win the 1979 election.

This would be absurd if it weren't so Shakespearean. It exactly replicates the famous double time-scheme in *Othello*. Presumably, with Archer as with Shakespeare, these things are not quite mistakes, and not calculated trickery either, but stem from a kind of serendipity or constructive carelessness. It certainly helps the pace.

Archer doesn't do insight or atmosphere, and gives the imagination very few cues. But at least in the second half, when the deal-making becomes more competitive, the pull of the story to some extent makes up for the lack of depth, and although it will frustrate those who enjoy wordplay and cerebral exercise, *The Fourth Estate* is not wholly unsatisfactory.



The Kurdish war in south-eastern Turkey has always been remote and under-reported (writes David Popen). It has never had the focus of Sarajevo or the superpower interest of Chechnya. But nearly 20,000 people have been killed in 11 years of fighting and millions more made homeless in this inaccessible back garden of Europe. In *Ataturk's Children* (Cassell), a rare and detailed look at the state of the 12 million Kurds of Turkey, Jonathan Rugman tells the story of the brutal Turkish oppression of Kurdish nationalism and pious stunts at reform that have led to the rise of the rebel Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). But he does not spare the

PKK either, explaining how they too have been responsible for murders, of innocent Kurds, Turks and even a British tourist. Both writer and photographer, Roger Hutchings, were beaten by Turkish policemen during their travels; the pictures seem to have been stealthily snatched from under the noses of the security forces and mostly ignore the beautiful side of the south-east. This is a neat, comprehensive account of the PKK rebellion, including the often untold story of its dictatorial and charismatic leader Abdullah Ocalan, but does not leave much hope for the future.

## Parma violets and fishy nylons

A squalid tale of London preachers has Helen Stevenson clutching the sick bag

I know a woman in her seventies who has finally given up reading contemporary literary fiction by women — particularly young ones. She's not narrow-minded, nor unfamiliar with or unmoved by suffering. She just says she can't take the nastiness any more. "I don't enjoy it, and I'm sure it doesn't make me a better person."

If this is an attitude that comes with age, then reading *The Touch* must have aged me by about 50 years. The scene (contemporary south London) and tone (sharp as a scalpel, dirty as a used dressing) are set in the first paragraph: Frank, a squalid, raving and clearly dangerous street preacher, lies covered in blood on Clapham Common, waiting to be discovered by a group of Sunday afternoon strollers. Here are the novel's main characters. Two adult sisters — Donna, bright and beautiful but half-crippled, and Gayle, a nurse, who, as a single mother, is never without her three-year-old daughter Kitty; and Donna's boyfriend, the sulky Will, who is hostile towards his sister-in-law and works in advertising. Gayle calls an ambulance which takes Frank to the hospital where she works. Later, drawn by his mysteriously knowing Donna's name and his claim to be able to heal her, Gayle and Will start

*The Touch* by Julie Myerson  
Picador, £12.99

to visit him in the squalor of his own home.

Donna is desperate for a child. Recently she miscarried: "Will tried to stop her seeing the pale mass which was clearly the foetus — a terrible shadowy human shape on the wad of lavatory paper — but she made sure she drank it in, locked the picture in her memory before he flushed it down." Frank lays on hands, and Donna is well again, fit to conceive and bear a child. But she refuses to give thanks to Frank or his God, Gayle and Will acknowledge a debt to Frank, while refusing his garbled religiosity and the repellence of what he is and says.

Often, when you ask people why they didn't like a novel, they say, "Oh, I just didn't warm to any of the characters" — which always seems a little on the critically floppy side. But *The Touch* made you want to take refuge in precisely this kind of reprehensible subjectivism. Take

this portrait of a minor character, for instance, one that made me want to throw my hat up in the air and be sick into it all at once. "A diabetic from Workop. Miss F. worked all her life in a chocolate factory — harsh phlegmy breath, cheeks furrowed and rouged like old cinema stars. Her breath a mix of gases: onions and parma violets. She clings hard as Frank tries to push her off, hitching up her skirt, revealing a tang of fishy nylons and much more."

Myerson uses words with a kind of redemptive grace which achieves a sublime transfiguration of the hideousness of it all. A boy's skin is "so white you could detect the workings of his body, the schemings of his heart beneath"; she notices the way shattered windcreens leave "pale blue crumbs of glass heaped on the pavement"; and comments on the bird mark on a dead boy's thumb, or a watch left ticking in a shoe on the beach. Her sentences are so funny and spare you feel stung and winded after just a few pages. The lyricism is what you'd expect of a songwriter more than of a novelist. The images and observations leave lasting physical impressions on your nerves. Her reputation is terrific, and she completely deserves it. I just think, next time, maybe I'll take it as read.

## Paperbacks

Reviewed by Emma Hagstadt and Christopher Hirst

*The Unredeemed Captive* by John Demos (Paperback, £10). Set in the milieu of *Last of the Mohicans*, this vivid narrative history concerns Eunice Williams, aged seven, who was "captivated" by Indians in 1704 during a raid on Deerfield, Massachusetts. Within two years, Eunice had forgotten her English and had been assimilated into her new culture, where she lived to the age of 89. The author's subtle decoding of surviving documents brings to life a puritan world as alien to us today as the Indian village where Eunice was forced to live.

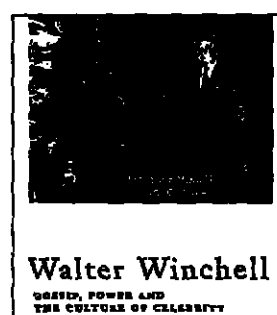
*The Club: The Jews of Modern Britain* by Stephen Brook (Constable, £14.95). One of our most engaging travel writers turns his sights on a target closer to home — indeed Brook is himself a member of this 350,000-strong "club". This does not prevent him expressing trenchant opinions about certain members. Sometimes

he seems too severe. After adducing an impressive roster of talent, from Steven Berkoff to Lucian Freud, Brook remarks that Anglo-Jewry has a "mostly undistinguished record in the arts". Outspoken, often funny, few works so encyclopaedic in scope can be as enjoyable to read.

*Walter Winchell* by Neal Gabler (Paperback, £13). Ex-hooper WW hit the big time in 1929 by inventing the gossip column for the *New York Mirror*. Winchell's sassy manic style was ideal for the era. By the late Thirties, two-thirds of the US was reading his tittle-tattle and press agents lived in dread of being put on his DDL (drop dead list). It is a great story for our celeb-obsessed times, with a colourful supporting cast. In the Fifties, Winchell cosied up to McCarthy, but he was sunk by television and changing public taste. Only his daughter attended his funeral in 1972.

*The Chalice and the Blade* by Riane Eisler (Pandora, £9.99). Human society was once characterised by the female life-giving chalice — Eisler particularly cites ancient Crete — but for the past 5,000 years, the male death-dealing blade has ruled. It is now high time, the author argues, for a return to "gynany", a term she has invented for a "linking of both halves of humanity". Two more volumes of this worthy, cranky stuff are promised — but it left this reader feeling a bit like Bertie Wooster after having his mind improved by Honoria Glossop.

*Jackie* by Wayne Koestenbaum (Fourth Estate, £8.99). In the last 15 years Jackie Onassis has appeared in Wayne Koestenbaum's dreams over two dozen times. They shared a Christmas celebration (she gave him a \$25 cheque), sat together at a dinner party hosted by Ronald Reagan (at which she sighed "how pretty!" at the sight of her own



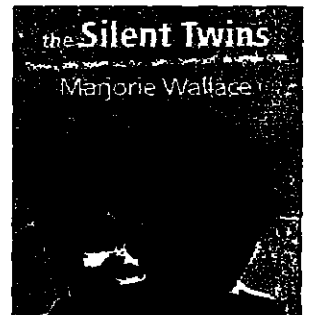
Walter Winchell  
WORDS, POWER AND THE CULTURE OF CELEBRITY

cheque book), and once Jackie shouted "Jew-Boy!" loudly in Wayne's direction. In an attempt to liberate his "inner Jackie", Wayne Koestenbaum, Harvard professor, has left no facet of his obsession with the Queen of Camelot untarned.

*The Weekend* by Peter Cameron (Fourth Estate, £5.99). Peter Cameron's first novel comes packaged in a spiffy little square no bigger than the palm of a hand. Frivolous and delighting in equal measure, it tells the story of three buddies whose midsummer weekend

in upstate New York is overshadowed by the anniversary of a friend's death from AIDS. Nothing actually happens, apart from a couple of lover's tiffs, but the lifestyle described is so beguilingly Martha Stewart — colonial farmhouses, white sundresses — that the book is shamefully hard to put down.

*The Silent Twins* by Marjorie Wallace (Vintage, £7.99). Identical twins Jennifer and June Gibbons were known at school as the "mocking birds": always moving in unison, refusing to speak to anyone (including members of their own family), and living a life governed by omens. Journalist Marjorie Wallace's breathtaking account — first published in 1986 and based on her reading of the twins' Brontë-style diaries, novels and poems — reconstructs the sisters' childhood on an RAF base in Haverfordwest, and a tormented adolescence which finally resulted in



matching beds in Broadmoor. Sibling love at its scariest.

*Bitterroot Landing* by Sheri Reynolds (Women's Press, £6.99). "Mammie" brews the sweetest liquor in the state. Men come from miles around to visit her woodland shack, drink her witchy potions, and get laid; that is until the day Jael whacks "Mammie" over the head with a mallet and kills her. And that's just for starters. Sheri Reynolds' strangely compelling, and at times totally baffling, tale of everyday southern folk is a potent as a glass of hooch on a hot day.

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# dream of adventure

350-mile canoe trip down the river that now bears his name. Seventy-one years later, the area through which the river flows is still wild, uninhabited and rarely visited. Referring to his original notes and charts, I will repeat his journey along the Gammon and Bloodwin rivers. Albert Gammon was my grandfather.

James is a designer living in Gloucestershire. He has already bought a canoe in Canada using an advertisement on the Internet (and a Canadiana contact to check it over). A substantial chunk of the cash will be spent on chartering a float-plane to deposit him and his canoe on Red Lake, Ontario. Then it is downriver all the way to Lake Winnipeg. "This will almost certainly be the first repeat of the route."

## A global pilgrimage

Babar Javed, 27. £6,000

"I want to visit the 24 sites of greatest historical, cultural and spiritual significance to mankind. Nobody has yet visited all of the most important sites in the world in a single journey; it will provide a unique insight into the peoples, places and practices of the world."

Babar, a student from Croydon, does not do things by halves. The panel could have spent a week arguing about his choice of sites (why select Samarkand but not St Petersburg, Adam's Peak but not Anacostia?), but all were impressed by the degree of planning – and the 10-minute video presentation that accompanied the application.

Babar will be using public transport wherever possible, and plans to stay in private homes, but he expects the trip to cost £16,000. He has already raised £10,000, so the judges were pleased to provide the necessary funding to get him under way. "I will be the first global pilgrim," he promised. The judges' generosity was matched only by their collective envy.

## In the steps of the Inuit

Ruth Patterson, 35. £3,300

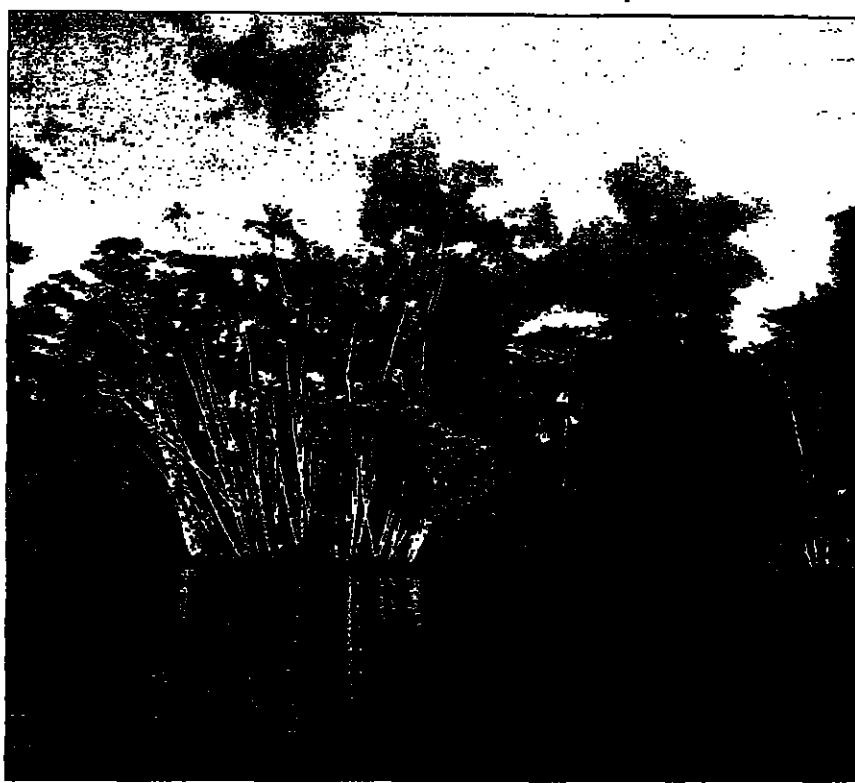
"I plan to follow the ancient Eskimo migratory routes from north-east Alaska, across Canada and into Greenland. Hopefully, by spending time with the Inuit, I'll also be able to learn about their art and mythology."

Ruth is a sculptor living in Bath, and she is particularly interested in Eskimo sculpture. She will travel between July and September – the Arctic summer – and she hopes her time will allow her to learn and develop new techniques. Little is documented about the mythology of the Inuit and she has not ruled out the idea of spending some of her time collecting stories for a book to be written on her return.

To gather information for her trip, Ruth used the Internet and, on her arrival in Alaska, she will be meeting up with some of the people who have helped her prepare for her journey.



Dreams coming true. From top to bottom: Alexander Hopkins, Ruth Patterson, Babar Javed and James Broad. Above right: Lino Necochea Lake, Napo river, Ecuador. Right: gypsies in Transylvania



Robert Harding Picture Library



Barry Lewis/Network

## DAY TRIPPER

# Smoked puffin and bananas on ice

Sue Gaisford had a surreal 24 hours in Iceland

Until the photographs came back from the chemist, I wasn't convinced that I'd been to Iceland. The whole thing could quite easily have been a dream – except for the slippers.

We were popping into Reykjavik on our way back from America. Spring had just happened in Boston and we left the city on a warm, hazy evening. Four hours later, at Keflavik airport, it was sunrise: it felt like the frosty dawn of the earth.

In the thin, bright light the sky was speedwell blue. The dark land appeared flat, stretching towards snow-capped mountains, but on closer inspection it was lumpy and furry, as if ploughed by a giant at the end of autumn and then forgotten. The clear air was sharp as grapefruit juice and our previously bedraggled party brightened to meet it, stepping out towards the bus which was to present us with the glories of Iceland in a day.

First stop: the Blue Grotto. This has more in common with Lourdes than Capri. Near-miracle cures are reported from psoriasis sufferers who have bathed in this warm, round, sulphurous pond, scraping the sediment from the bottom and plastering their skin with it. You can buy tubes of the mud. I did – although I don't have psoriasis you never know when it might come in handy.

We picked up a guide whose name was Peter, and who knew absolutely everything

about Iceland, from the number of sheep to the date of Björk's return. He began imparting information in such a low, sing-song, soporific voice that you'd want to employ him to read the children to sleep.

Next thing I knew I was staring at a bunch of bananas and wondering if we were in Jamaica. No, it was a greenhouse, heated – as is the whole of the country – by hot water bubbling just below the surface. The bananas were ripe and shoulder high, but no little vandals would nick them. In spite of their roistering Viking history, Icelanders are extremely well behaved: in 1994 there were only four muggings, all of them in central Reykjavik, all after 3am.

Impressed, we tottered out, but reality slipped again at the sight of the well outside. There it sat, alone and steaming like some witchy supply source. It makes sense when you think about it – but there was no time for that. Back on the bus, another snooze, and there we were on the fringe of a volcanic crater, filled with blue water. Peter just had time to tell us that volcanoes erupt every five years before we all dropped off again, dimly grasping that it was four and three quarter years since the last explosion here.

We really woke up for Gullfoss waterfall. I'd never seen one so impressive, though a Scot among us muttered loyally that he had, in the Highlands. It was enough to keep us awake as we pottered about, not very close to the edge, to learn that last year a tourist



Reykjavik: extremely well-behaved

had fallen over and, sargh, his body had never been found.

The man from Icelandair must have been dreaming of fish, because he awoke suddenly, his mouth pointing at the roof of the bus, gasping. We all gasped then, for we were at Geisir, the place that gave its name to geysers. On a rocky platform we stood around the edge of a hole full of sloshing water. It looked like the type of hot bath you leap out of quickly. As we watched, the surface gathered and became a huge, blue bubble and then, suddenly, spouted boiling water 30-feet into the air. Happily there was no wind, or

several sleepy tourists might have had an unwelcome scalding.

Time for lunch, at the Geisir hotel. Sitting at school-type dinner tables, we relished some salmon and a beer or two before our post-prandial nap took us to the top of the world. Here was the place where the first parliament was held, some 700 years ago. It was called the Althing, and it sits at the very spot where the tectonic plates are moving slowly apart. Well, usually slowly. Every hundred years there is another earthquake on this site, which is a continuation of the notorious San Andreas fault. They haven't had one now for 99 and three-quarter years. We moved on rapidly.

At some point in the afternoon we were in a shop that sold bright, woolly jumpers. That's where I got the slippers. There are twice as many sheep as people in this country and they don't miss a chance to flog you some knitting.

Then it was evening, though daylight remorselessly continued. Our dinner featured smoked puffin. This is the only country whose national symbol is also their favourite dish. I'm slightly ashamed to say that it was delicious.

On double overdrive now, some of our party caroused the night away at the Reykjavik Bar, but I had had enough. I left such partying – and the trip to a glacier and a ride on the sturdy, hairy little horses – for another time. For now, I'm glad to have the photos, and the coziest slippers in the world.

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At last: a benefit from rail privatisation – free upgrades to first class. The Government is spending a fortune on promoting the virtues of selling off the railways, and at the same time stretching the public's credulity to the limit. The latest issue of Rail Privatisation Update trills about the benefits of competition. It fails to mention that if you wish to use public transport between, say, Derby and London, you can choose between a bus operated by National Express or a train operated by...

National Express. The rule book that seeks to govern this desperate muddle is the National Conditions of Carriage. In case all the Railtrack sell-off advertisements (what? no trains?) have set you wondering what a train actually looks like, you will find the useful tip that "the term 'train' includes any road vehicle owned or operated by a train company".

Buried amongst all the befuddlement, however, is the promise for rail travellers of free upgrades to first class. Next time you find



SIMON CALDER

yourself on a train where there is standing room only in second (sorry, standard) class, try quoting this at the guard (sorry, senior conductor): "If you have a standard class ticket and no standard class accommodation is available, with the prior permission of the ticket staff on that train you may travel in first class accommodation without extra charge."

In other words, when second class is full but first class isn't you should demand an upgrade. Drop section 1, part 1, condition 36 (b) into your conversation with the ticket inspector. And good luck.

Can anyone offer a foolproof way to deal with rogue taxi drivers? It must be possible to devise a system

for avoiding ludicrously high fares. British cabbies are models of rectitude compared with their foreign counterparts.

Travelling between Venice airport and the nearest rail station, I found myself taken for a ride in two senses. The taxi had a functioning meter. The driver knew, however, that the newly arrived traveller had no knowledge of the intricacies of the charging system. So he switched the tariff to its highest, and loaded on £4 worth of extras. This was in the middle of the day, in the middle of the week, when charges tend to be at their lowest whether you are in Italy or Islington. I was travelling alone with minimal luggage.

The 10km, 10-minute journey clocked £17. As I clambered out, he pressed a button and magically added 10 per cent to the total. Deftly rounding this up to award himself a tip, I was left £20 out of pocket. A colleague later said this was rather more than twice the going rate. So where did I go wrong?

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## travel world

# On the ridge above us a frieze of Zulu warriors appeared in full battle dress

By Diana Constance



Zulu warriors near the Simunye Pioneer Settlement. Photograph: Diana Constance

South Africa today is much more than wide beaches and game parks: it is a tonic for the disillusioned spirit. We wanted to visit the homelands; particularly the Transkei of President Mandela, but the poverty and uncontrolled industrial development has left little of the traditional Xhosa life and culture. So it was to Mandela's chief headquarter, the Zulus, that we went. They have had a bad press and are certainly a fierce and nationalistic people, but this has enabled their unique culture to survive.

We left the normal tourist routes and crossed the border from Natal at the Tugela bridge, following the line of march of Lord Chelmsford, who invaded Zululand in 1879.

A woman, sitting proudly like an elegant sentinel in a blue cloak, with the elaborately beaded headpiece of the Zulu matron, marked the boundary. The road then became filled with other women wearing tribal dress who were carrying pots and bundles on their heads to the market. This resembled a car-boot sale, employing "combies" - the battered mini-vans which are the public transport of black South Africa. The air was full of the lowing of the Zulus' fat cattle, along with the pungent smell of roasting mearns (ears of maize). But we were the chief attraction: there are no busloads of tourists here.

We were on our way to a Zulu pioneer camp, the geographical location of which we had only the vaguest idea and since it was getting late we were fearful of not locating our pick-up point. Finally we saw on the crest of a ridge what looked like a posse of four cowboys out of a John Wayne film. Our reception committee was led by Vincent, a gnarled and bearded Zulu, who we later found out had been a grip on the film series *Shaka*.

The sight of our transport was daunting; a spirited grey stallion and a gentle chestnut mare. "You can ride with the luggage in the bullock cart if you prefer, but horseback will be more comfortable," said Vincent. We found out why, after a one-and-a-half hour ride down the mountain side. Vincent pointed out a particularly rocky descent which they call O My God hill. I asked why and he explained with a grin that the tourists in the bullock cart always cry "O my God" at this place.

As the light faded in the hills we found ourselves part of a cattle drive as a herd of black-and-white Nguni cattle streamed out of the thorn thickets for the evening roundup back to the kraal.

Vincent reined us in for sundowners and *brei* (or barbecue) in the valley and we crossed a wide sandstone drift in the shallow river. A Zulu woman in a blue toga appeared suddenly out

of this apparent wilderness with a plastic cool bag over one shoulder filled with gin and tonics, wine and meat, and in the other hand two lighted brands.

The tracker piled up driftwood and we ate our grilled steak by the firelight and listened to Vincent's tales of his people. A single kerosene lamp lit our way in the darkness as we rode back across the river towards camp.

Suddenly, from the ridge above us, the flare of torches illuminated a frieze of Zulu warriors in full battle dress. The noise of drums and assegais - spears - rattling on shields was deafening. Warriors and boys (all from the local school) threw their torches on dry tinder and leapt through the flames of the fire, hurling their assegais at imaginary prey. Then, with triumphal song and the women's ululations, they led us, still mounted, into camp like returning warriors.

We spent three days with the Biela people from Shaka's clan. The individual thatched lodges of the camp, which accommodate only 12 guests in total, are built into the rocky face of the Mfula river gorge. You dine by candlelight beside the river (in fact there is no electricity) and the hot water for our personal rock-pool was heated in a wood-fired boiler. The swimming pool, which we enjoyed on warm afternoons after a canter up the valley, is a nat-

ural part of the river which has been dammed and filtered.

Vincent became our friend and mentor, teaching us Zulu ways as we visited the clan's kraal - shouting at the entrance to receive permission to enter. The kraal consisted of a circle of very large beehive huts, made of finely woven reeds and grass which are renewed each year. At the centre stood the pride and wealth of the clan, the cattle. A familiar smell drew us to the beer-making hut, where one of the chief's wives was straining the fermented brew through a fine-mesh basket.

Then Vincent invited us to a coming of age ceremony in a nearby kraal. The young men were home from the gold mines for the holiday. We piled into a pick-up truck and as we bounced over rutted tracks Vincent pointed out a circular thatched hut flying two red-and-white engagement flags. "That man is marrying two women," he said.

When we arrived the dancing had already started, the heavy drum beat and young women's chant, made famous by the film *Zulu*, bounced back from the hills. The male relatives squatted in a long line on the grass while the young women - who were coming of age - danced bare-breasted, wearing only the traditional heavy leather skirts, intended to slow up flighty wives. Anklets, made of tin cans,

rattled as they kicked and stamped out the rhythms, advancing towards the men with assegais which they laid at their feet. The men took up their challenge and advanced with warlike lops - only to pin dowry money into the girls' hair.

We were the only white present and were treated like long-lost friends. The men kept shaking our hands and holding us, saying "Simunye" again and again, which means "we are together".

## How to get there

Discount fares to South Africa are widely available. The cheapest flights from London to Johannesburg are usually to be found on Sudan Airways via Khartoum or Balkan Bulgarian via Sofia. Non-stop flights on British Airways or South African Airways cost around £670 including tax and are available through agents such as Bridge The World (0171-911 0900).

## Who to ask

The South African Tourist Board, 5 Alt Grove, London SW19 4DZ (0891 102090 - a premium-rated number). The Simunye Pioneer Settlement (00 27 03546 912) PO Box 25 Melmoth, 3835 Kwazulu, South Africa.

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### Trouble spots

Advice on Africa from our man in the Foreign Office:

**Mozambique:** "Armed banditry has sharply increased. While robbery has been the main motive, attacks have been unnecessarily vicious and in some cases fatal. Travel by road only between 8am and 3pm, if possible in the company of two or more vehicles."

**Uganda:** "Do not travel to the area north of the Nile and west of Gulu. Before travelling up country, consult the Consular Section of the British High Commission in Kampala (257054)."

**Cameroon:** "If you are travelling between Maroua and the border with Chad, seek advice from local police and be prepared to travel with a military escort."

**Central African Republic:** "The British Honorary Consul in Bangui can give only limited assistance in an emergency. The French or German Embassies will offer help in an emergency."

Foreign Office travel advice is available on 0171-238 4503; on BBC-2 Ceefax from page 564 onwards and on the Internet at <http://www.fco.gov.uk>

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## WORLD DEPARTURES

"Take skirts with elasticated waistbands" was one of the top tips at last summer's Female Eye event in London. Lyn Hughes of *Wanderlust* magazine provided this advice for dealing with the weight changes that are inevitable when travelling in the developing world; she will be one of the speakers at this year's event, to be held on 1 June at the Commonwealth Institute in west London.

"The aim is to inform and inspire on all aspects of travelling as a woman" says the organiser, Lyn Baker. Tickets (£20) should be booked in advance on 01628 62528.

The vast archipelago that comprises Indonesia stretches 3,000 miles from one end to the other. So the Visit Indonesia Pass offered by the national airline Garuda Indonesia (0171-486

3011) is well worth considering. For three flight sectors you pay \$300 (£200), for five \$500 (£333); additional legs are \$110 (£70) each. The airpass covers Sumatra, Java, Indonesian Borneo, Bali, Sulawesi, the Moluccas and Irian Jaya. You need evidence of residence abroad to buy the ticket.

From the end of this month, American Airlines will ban smoking on transatlantic flights. All 133 UK to US services become non-smoking, as do connecting flights to the Caribbean.

This week Air Jamaica is due to begin services from the UK to the Caribbean after a gap of 11 years. The airline (0181-570 7999) will initially offer three flights per week from Heathrow to both Kingston and Montego Bay.

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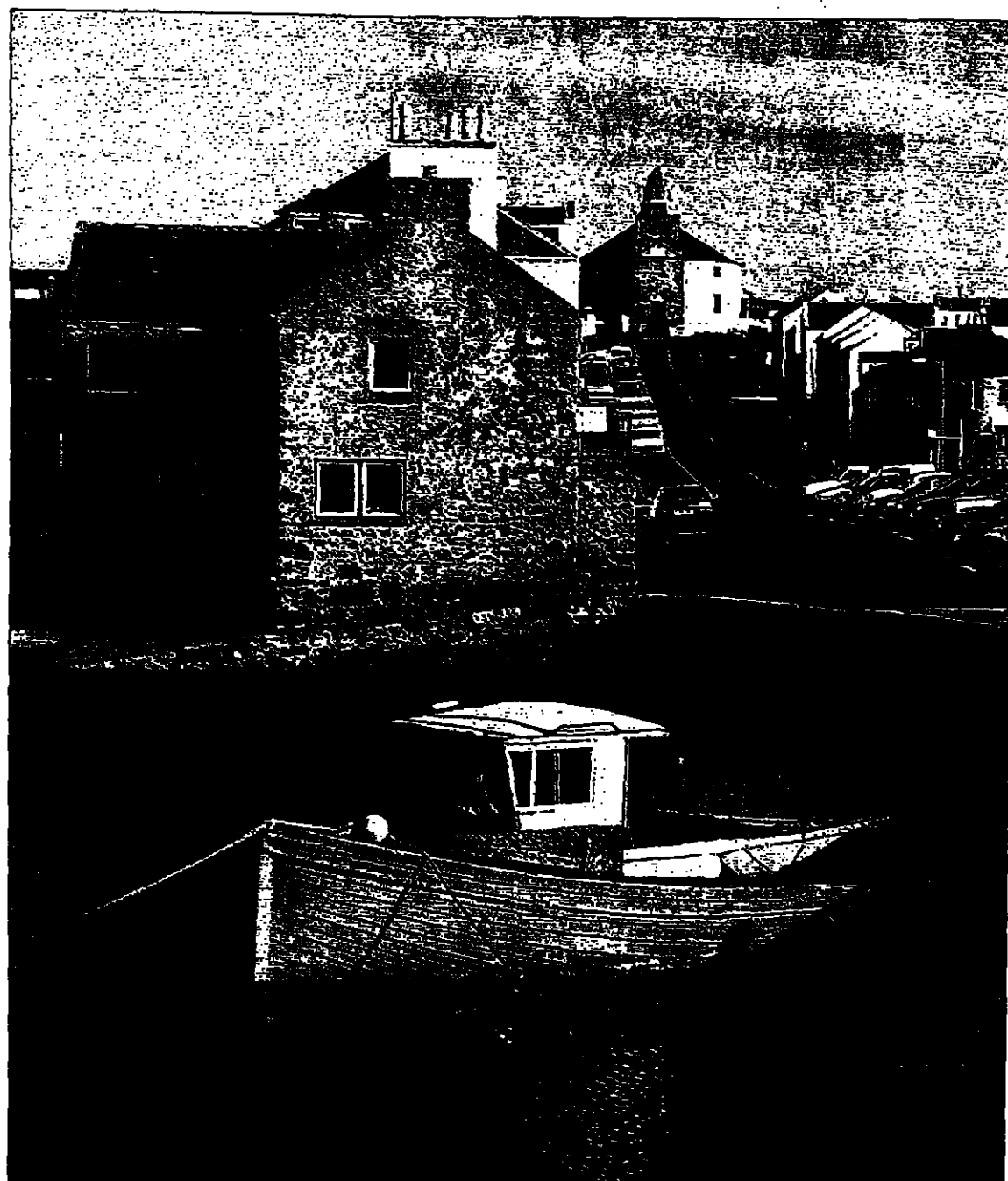
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# Island of whisky, wool and wildlife

You name it, they have it on Islay: old-fashioned weaving, golden sands, rare birds and seals that like human voices. By Fiona MacAulay



Bowmore pier and town

Photograph: Sue Anderson

According to the locals they use the fire-engines at Islay airport to check the runway for stray sheep. Be that as it may, landing at Glencedale by plane is a totally different experience to our normal understanding of modern air travel. There is no queuing or security, nor are there announcements over the tannoy at this tiny island airport – and the firemen unload the baggage by hand.

Islay was briefly in the headlines two years ago when Prince Charles crash-landed his plane during a royal visit. It is an enchanting place. The most southerly link in the Hebridean chain of islands, it has a climate much milder than that of most of the northern region, due to its position in the Gulf Stream. Historically it has been better cared for than most of the island communities and as a result is less barren and has areas of lush and productive farmland.

The administrative capital is Bowmore. It is a fine looking town on Loch Indaal and one of the earliest to be built on a grid system. It is dominated by an 18th-century round church (so the devil can't hide in the corners) and the pagoda towers of Bowmore distillery. The prettiest villages on Islay, though, are on the Rhinns, the western arm of the island. Portnahaven and Port Wemyss cluster around a sheltered harbour protected by the tiny island of Orsay. In the interests of economy these two villages share a church, but each has its own path and entrance.

Port Charlotte, further north, has two excellent museums: The Islay Field Centre and The Museum of Islay Life. Here some intriguing objects are on display – an illegal whisky still and the shoes worn by the horses that "mowed" the lawn at Islay House, the principal mansion on the island. Port Ellen, on the east side of the island, is a picturesque port built by the laird of Islay – Walter Frederick of Shawfield – at the beginning of the 19th century and named after his wife.

For those wanting to go shopping, Torridale Croft between Port Charlotte and Portnahaven has hand-knitted woollens. It is one of the few places in Scotland where you can still see traditional spinning and naturally dyed wool (nettle, meadowsweet and thistle are just some of the plants used for dyes). The Islay Woollen Mill near Bridgend makes tweed regarded as among the

## Six of the best things to do around Islay

Catch the ferry to Colonsay (Wednesday only, 10 April - 9 October). Here you can explore Kiloran Bay and the gardens of Kiloran.

Make a pilgrimage to George Orwell's house in Jura (Regular ferries to Jura from Port Askaig throughout the day). While you're there, visit the gardens of Jura House where there's an excellent shoreline walk with views over to Islay. The Jura Fell Race (up and down the three Paps of Jura) takes place on 25 May.

Play a round of golf at Islay's Machrie 18-hole golf course. Go pony trekking from Rockside Farm, Bruichladdich – riding on the beach at Machir Bay and on the cliff tops above Kilchoman.

Explore the sea from the Islay Dive Centre at Port Ellen. Visit the Islay Festival this year which takes place from 24 May to June 8 (01496 302413 for more details).

best in the country. The cloth for *Braveheart* and *Rob Roy* and a clutch of other Hollywood movies was made there on two Victorian looms.

Beachcombers will be in their element on Islay and should go equipped with an Ordnance Survey map which marks all the sandy shorelines. The beaches have pale golden sand and are almost deserted. The Big Strand at Laggan Bay is seven miles long and is not to be confused with The Strand at the top of Loch Indaal, the preferred haunt of the locals. At Claggan Bay the beach has pebbles in the most beautiful colours. Kilchoman beach at Machir Bay has spectacular raised beaches and Tayovullin on the western shore of Loch Gruinart is known for its dunes. It is also a favourite spot for seals which are said to be attracted in shore by the sound of voices, particularly the high-pitched chatter of children.

There's plenty more wildlife – with over 200 species of birds, the rare corn-crake and chough in particular. Islay is the wintering ground for two thirds of the world population of Greenland Barnacle geese and a third of the Greenland White-fronted geese. In previous years they have caused much anxiety and loss of income to farmers by eating the shoots of young grass. However, a goose subsidy has now been introduced to compensate farmers for

their losses. This necessitates the employment of two full time "goose-counters" during the winter as the subsidy is calculated per goose.

If the living don't appeal, try the dead. Among a wealth of archaeological sites on the island, Finlaggan is the most significant. It was the headquarters of the Macdonald Lords of the Isles, who ruled the north-western seaboard until they were forced to forfeit their lands and titles to James IV of Scotland in 1493. There is a small visitor's centre and in the summer an archaeological team from the National Museums of Scotland may be found working on the site. There are the Iron Age forts of Dun Nosebridge and Dun Chaisrig to be explored and standing stones from the Bronze Age, of which the 16ft monolith at Bullinby is the finest example. The Vikings colonised Islay, followed by the Norse and there are still traces of their deserted farms and villages etched on the landscape. But it was the early Christians who left the finest legacy in the form of several exquisitely carved stone crosses. The High Cross of Kildalton, dating from about AD800, is the best known but the Kilchoman cross from about AD1400 is also worth seeing.

Last but not least, no visit to Islay would be complete without a comprehensive study of the Islay malt whiskies – Lagavulin, Bunnahabhain, Laphroaig, Bowmore and Caol Ila. Learn to pronounce them before you try them... Guided tours can be arranged to all the distilleries – Bowmore's is probably the slickest as they have set up a smart visitors centre and shop, but you might prefer something a little less polished.

## How to get there

You can reach Islay on the Caledonian MacBayne ferry from Kennacraig. There is also a daily flight on British Airways (0345 222111) from Glasgow and nearby islands.

## Who to ask

The Scottish Tourist Board is at 17 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5BL (0171-930 8661). They sell an unlimited travel ticket for railway journeys to and within Scotland. Or try the Tourist Information Centre, 3 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 2QP (0131-557 1700). The Islay Tourist Board is on 01496 810 254.

## Where Richard II came to a sticky end

The town where a king was killed became a great place for growing liquorice. By Theresa Allen

If you are a lover of liquorice then Pontefract is not just a last resort, it is the only resort. History has been less than kind to Pontefract. Shakespeare cruelly immortalised the town as "Bloody Pomfret" because of the death at Pontefract Castle (in mysterious circumstances) of Richard II. The 11th-century castle, an architectural miracle of its time, was where Richard was imprisoned. It was almost completely razed to the ground at the end of the Civil War, as punishment for Pontefract being the last royalist base to hold out against Cromwell's Parliament, despite being under siege three times. Happily, and perhaps ironically, Pontefract is now a good stopping off point for what the local museum curator describes as "Yorkshire castle hoppers".

Shortly after the end of the Civil War, liquorice bush, particularly hard to cultivate in this country, started to bloom in the castle ruins, due apparently to the suitability of the loam. An enterprising local devised a recipe incorporating treacle and liquorice stem to create the famous Pontefract cake. This is not, as a bakery in the centre of Pontefract explains with weary patience, a cake at all. It is a small, cir-



## LAST RESORT Pontefract

cular confectionery defiantly stamped with the insignia of the rebel coins made at Pontefract Castle during the war.

The liquorice industry boomed and by the beginning of this century there were 26 manufacturers in the town, many with lively imaginations. An exhibition in the local History Museum displays some unexpected liquorice artefacts, including a giant ornamental teapot made entirely from luminous shades of the sticky stuff. In 1874, memories of the Sieges of Pontefract were perhaps still sufficiently fresh for the town to seal down its ballot box in the first ever secret parliamentary election with – yes – liquorice.

Alighting at Tanshelf, one of Pontefract's three railway stations, the odour of liquorice is still unmistakable.

Yet commercial cultivation of liquorice in Pontefract ceased in 1966, and the stuff is now imported from France where it is cheaper and easier to grow.

An import from abroad – the European Development Fund to be exact – has recently reopened Tanshelf station, which was closed for 30 years, and has improved the other two stations. But, according to a local taxi driver, all three of them are a little too far from the ruins of the castle, the pleasant pedestrianised town centre (which has retained its medieval street names and is about to be re-paved, courtesy of the National Lottery), and the racecourse, to benefit many except those in his line of work.

Most visitors come to see the castle ruins and leave only a little wiser about the liquorice past. Now, rather than allow the memory of liquorice-growing industry to be forgotten, the tourist authority this year is promoting a Liquorice Trail around the town. This visits the fields where liquorice was once grown, as well as two disused liquorice factories. And the Camra award-winning Tap and Spittle pub in the town centre still occasionally serves liquorice beer. After all, it takes all sorts to make a resort.

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## Partners in care

The Government is on the verge of introducing a new regime for long-term care. Clifford German reports

The Government's plans for partnership to prevent pensioners who need long-term care from having to sell their homes to pay the bills, provided they have taken out a measure of insurance to cover the initial costs, could take effect within 12 months if the proposals win all-party support.

The Green Paper was published last Tuesday and the Government has set a deadline of 14 June for detailed comments from interested parties. Detailed proposals could be ready for publication in the November Budget and could be effective from the start of the next financial year.

But there are still loose ends to tie up, and Help the Aged still thinks it will fail older people who are not eligible for automatic state support but cannot afford the premiums to pay for the insurance in the first place.

The Government has proposed two alternative forms of partnership, one that would guarantee to exempt £1.50 worth of assets, including the family home, from means-testing for every £1 worth of insurance the individual has bought.

It would mean in effect that anyone who needs residential or nursing care and has bought, say, £40,000 worth of benefit from an insurance company would be able to keep assets worth £50,000, plus the existing £16,000 allowance, and still qualify for state support when the benefit has been used up.

An alternative proposal would protect only £1 of assets for each £1 insured benefit, but would increase the threshold by a further £15,000, which some industry sources argue would be more favourable to wealthier people,

and perhaps less costly to the Government.

Contrary to some initial fears it is claimed that the plans would not be prohibitively expensive for wealthier people. The average cost of residential care is currently around £15,000 a year in the North of England, rising to more than £20,000 in the South-east, with an additional £5,000 for nursing care.

But this is within the reach of many people on substantial pensions, who can expect to pay for care out of income without having to run down capital or sell the homes they hope to pass on to their children.

Many others can obtain a limited amount of extra cover indefinitely by taking out existing long-term care policies issued by industry stalwarts like Commercial Union, FPP Lifetime and Bupa.

These providers have already undertaken that existing policyholders will not be disadvantaged by the introduction of partnership policies, but the general view is that relatively few policyholders would want or need to switch to a new-style policy.

The Government's plans are targeted mainly at middle-class families that do not currently qualify for state support because they have assets in excess of £16,000, but cannot afford the premiums to buy insurance, and are therefore forced eventually to sell their homes to pay for continued care. An estimated 40,000 homes have to be sold each year since the Government forced local authorities to start charging local residents for care three years ago.

But the average lump-sum payment to buy £15,000 a year of



A way out: The Green Paper is aimed at preventing pensioners having to sell their homes to pay for care

long-term care insurance for a 65-year-old man in good health is £10,000 or perhaps £75 a month until the care is needed. For a woman the costs could be 50 per cent higher.

It is possible to buy insurance up to the age of 85 but rates rise with age and individuals must still be in good general health to qualify.

Partnership plans could reduce premiums by a third, but lobby groups describe the proposals as a tax on the elderly, and too little too late for those already in poor health.

Commercial Union, however, points out that many people only need to buy a top-up to secure

their assets, older people should still be able to raise the capital to pay for insurance by taking out a Home Income Plan to release part of the equity from their homes, while in their own interests families ought to be willing to help pay the cost of premiums for elderly parents in order to help protect their own prospects of inheriting something substantial.

The Government also proposes to allow individuals to forgo some of their pension early in retirement in order to pay premiums for long-term care should it be necessary, but the National Association of Pension Funds is concerned that the majority of prospective pensioners are

already facing retirement on marginal or inadequate incomes, and should not be encouraged to deplete their incomes further.

Issues that still remain to be resolved include the extent to which the Government will be willing to encourage support for elderly people who have failed some of the tests for continuing to live at home, but are reluctant to leave home if they can receive home help.

Another is the minimum and maximum standards of care that individuals can expect if they take out a partnership plan. A third issue is the regulations needed to supervise an expanded care insurance industry.

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Sniff the air in the City these days and it doesn't take a genius to sense that the prospect of a Labour government is beginning to enter into earnest into investors' calculations. A week is an even longer time in the City than in politics, but with the next general election now a year at most away, the probability that Tony Blair will be the next occupant of Downing Street is for the first time clearly being discounted seriously.

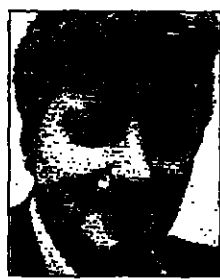
The diminishing scope for tax cuts looks a critical final nail in the Major government's coffin. NatWest's leaked advice to its private clients to avoid the Railtrack privatisation issue is one interesting straw in the wind. The bank's warning that the regulatory and political risk is higher in this issue than in previous privatisations is, I suspect, no more than a roundabout way of saying that it expects Labour to win the next election.

Another sign of the changing climate is the widespread feeling in the boardrooms of Britain's big companies that the window for completing bids and

deals before the election is rapidly drawing to a close, despite the corporate financiers' frantic efforts to sustain the momentum of bids. Indeed, the Government's seemingly political decision to block the power generators' bids for regional electricity companies suggests that the "anything goes" days of the last few years may already be over.

Already we are seeing the first fruits of the inevitable "What will a Labour government mean?" type of research emerging from brokers and tax advisers. And there is also a discernible shift in the City's attitude towards Labour policy. Polite but studied indifference is giving way to a recognition that now it really is time to start ploughing through the minutiae of policy documents for clues as to what may happen if—or, more probably, when—the Government changes.

This tide of gathering concern is consistent with the view that the stock market at least is likely to be relatively weak in the second half of the year. The trend will accelerate if the current



JONATHAN DAVIS  
INVESTMENTS

downward trend on Wall Street – five straight down days in a row up to last Wednesday – is indeed the first sign of the significant market correction on the other side of the Atlantic that so many have been anticipating for so long.

What might a Labour victory mean for the markets? I have been chewing over the outlook in this new climate with Stephen Lewis, for many years a strategist with the brokers Phillips & Drew,

and now the markets-watcher at the London Bond Broking Company, a boutique research firm he helped to set up after Big Bang. His feeling is that a Labour victory may well be more serious for the stock market than it is for gilts, although neither market clearly is likely to be affected as dramatically as they were the last time Labour took power, in the dark days of the 1970s. A Labour government of the traditional big-spending, inflationary sort would be expected to shy investors out of gilts and into equities. But that recipe looks too pat this time around. Rather, assuming that Labour pronouncements can be trusted, we have the prospect of a new government pursuing a tight fiscal policy to meet the Maastricht criteria and also pursuing a stable exchange rate policy of some sort. Companies meanwhile will be wrestling with the impact of the Social Chapter and a generally more restrained operating environment, which will serve to put a cap on potential profits and dividend growth.

Against a background of still-subdued

inflationary pressures, that should guard against gilts again becoming the wealth-destruction machine they were last time round. (Anyone who bought gilts a year before the Labour victory in 1974 would have seen their investment fall by nearly 40 per cent in real terms over the next six years. Likewise, anyone who bought gilts the year before Labour's 1964 victory would have lost 20 per cent of their investment by 1970). In fact, Lewis concludes, with inflation at under 3 per cent and yields on medium-term issues above 8 per cent, gilts do not look bad value for the risk involved (though he reckons that Canadian and German bonds, with real yields of 6 per cent and 5 per cent respectively, look better bets still. He also likes US bonds).

And that, anyway, is how it may well appear to US investors, who – Lewis predicts – will be the first out of their traps to buy gilts if a Blair victory is confirmed in the election. From a US perspective, a Labour victory will seem to fit the pattern visible elsewhere in Europe of centre and centre-left gov-

ernments trying to achieve modest social objectives within a framework of restrictive fiscal policies.

It is, says Lewis, one of the paradoxes of the modern international investment arena that foreign investors are often the ones who see the dynamics of a market more clearly than their domestic counterparts. It is American investors who tend to get cleaned out in the Treasury market and who get carried away with the excitement of a strong run on Wall Street. Even the Germans are often blinded by their faith in the strength of the mark. So it may prove to be with the election.

Politics inevitably involves emotions, and there is no doubt that there is still a residual fear in many quarters of the City about what a Labour government might mean. But this time around, there are genuine grounds for thinking that the transition will be less painful for investors than it has been in the past, even if it will take time for the Labour Party's intentions towards Railtrack to become clear.



## LOOSE CHANGE

Endowments Direct, one of the specialist brokers matching buyers and sellers of second-hand endowment policies, is launching a 24-hour-a-day world-wide trading system through ED's site on the Internet, by-passing auctions and postal sales.

Sellers can register policy details for £30 (waived in the first two months from launch), and buyers can input bids until a policy is sold. Bids are also accepted via telephone, fax, E-mail or post.

More than £165m worth of endowment policies were sold in the UK last year, and demand for policies issued by companies that may pay bonuses as a result of takeovers or conversion to public companies is particularly brisk.

But most of the 500,000 unwanted policies each year are still surrendered to the insurance companies that issued them, according to ED's managing director, Julian Knopf.

Annuity rates, which decide how much pension investors can buy with a fixed sum of money, have been rising since the start of the year and made a further jump in the last week as a result of the Government's poor performance in the local elections.

Generali, Standard Life and Swiss Life have increased the annuity they pay for a fixed sum by between 2 per cent and 5 per cent in the last two weeks and rates are back to their highest levels since last July.

Peter Quinton, managing director of the Annuity Bureau, says anyone considering whether to cash their investments and buy an annuity now has to consider the possibility that the stock market might fall, reducing the capital they have available, but annuity rates might continue to rise if they wait.

Barclays Bank has launched a new "silver service" current account with extras including a

free £100 overdraft facility. The bank says it is based on extensive research into what customers really want from a current account.

Other add-ons include a free will-writing service, an automatic £5,000 life cover (£5,000 each for joint accounts), private medical cover for children under 21 at a cheap rate of £2.50 a month and access to Barclaycard telephone banking.

There is a charge of £5 a month for the account, however, and some critics, especially Terry Thomas, the chairman of the Cooperative Bank, one of the pioneers of free banking, claim the account is the thin end of a wedge that could bring an end to free banking for customers in credit.

Barclays insists the account is just an option alongside its standard current account.

General Accident Life has launched a new fixed-rate mortgage at 7.2 per cent until January 2000. The rate rises by 0.24 per cent if the lender's house and contents insurance is not also taken, there is a completion fee of £295 and a valuation fee of £99 and a mortgage indemnity guarantee policy is required for loans greater than 75 per cent of the valuation, but first-time buyers can consolidate them into the loan even if it takes them above 95 per cent loan to value. Redemption penalties of six months' interest are charged on the sums redeemed before January 2000, but the loan can be transferred without penalty on moving house.

Bradford & Bingley Building Society has announced a two-year fixed-rate mortgage of 5 per cent and a three-year fixed rate of 6.50 per cent, both for up to 85 per cent loans to value of the property.

Add 0.25 per cent for loans between 85 per cent and 95 per cent of value and a further 0.25 per cent if the society's insurance is not taken. The arrangement fee is £295 and the

redemption penalty six months' interest within the first five years.

To coincide with the FA Cup Final today NatWest Bank is introducing a special service allowing customers to trade in shares in the three football clubs listed on the main market, Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur and Millwall, and the three clubs listed on the AIM, Chelsea, Celtic and Preston. Prices can be watched and deals done on the instant share-dealing screen in 280 branches, but the bank is not offering any special deals.

Subsidence claims are set to soar by at least 50 per cent this year, and not even a wet summer can stop the trend, according to the Chartered Institute of Loss Adjusters.

Claims rose from £125m in 1994 to £325m last year, with all the increase in the last half of last year, and insurance premiums may have to rise.

But some loss adjusters claim that the institute is being alarmist and Guardian Direct claims to be able to reduce premiums for many homeowners in areas considered to be at high risk of subsidence by using more detailed information based on the Geological Survey, to assess true risks.

A quarter of the population of Greater London and South-east England is likely to suffer financial hardship in retirement, but the proportion rises to two-thirds in East Anglia, according to a regional survey prepared by Mintel for Flemings Investment Trust Management.

Their definition assumes that anyone retiring on less than 40 per cent of final earnings will face hardship. Almost 40 per cent will face hardship in Scotland and the West Midlands, and 44 per cent in Northern Ireland, but the proportion rises to more than half everywhere else in the UK.

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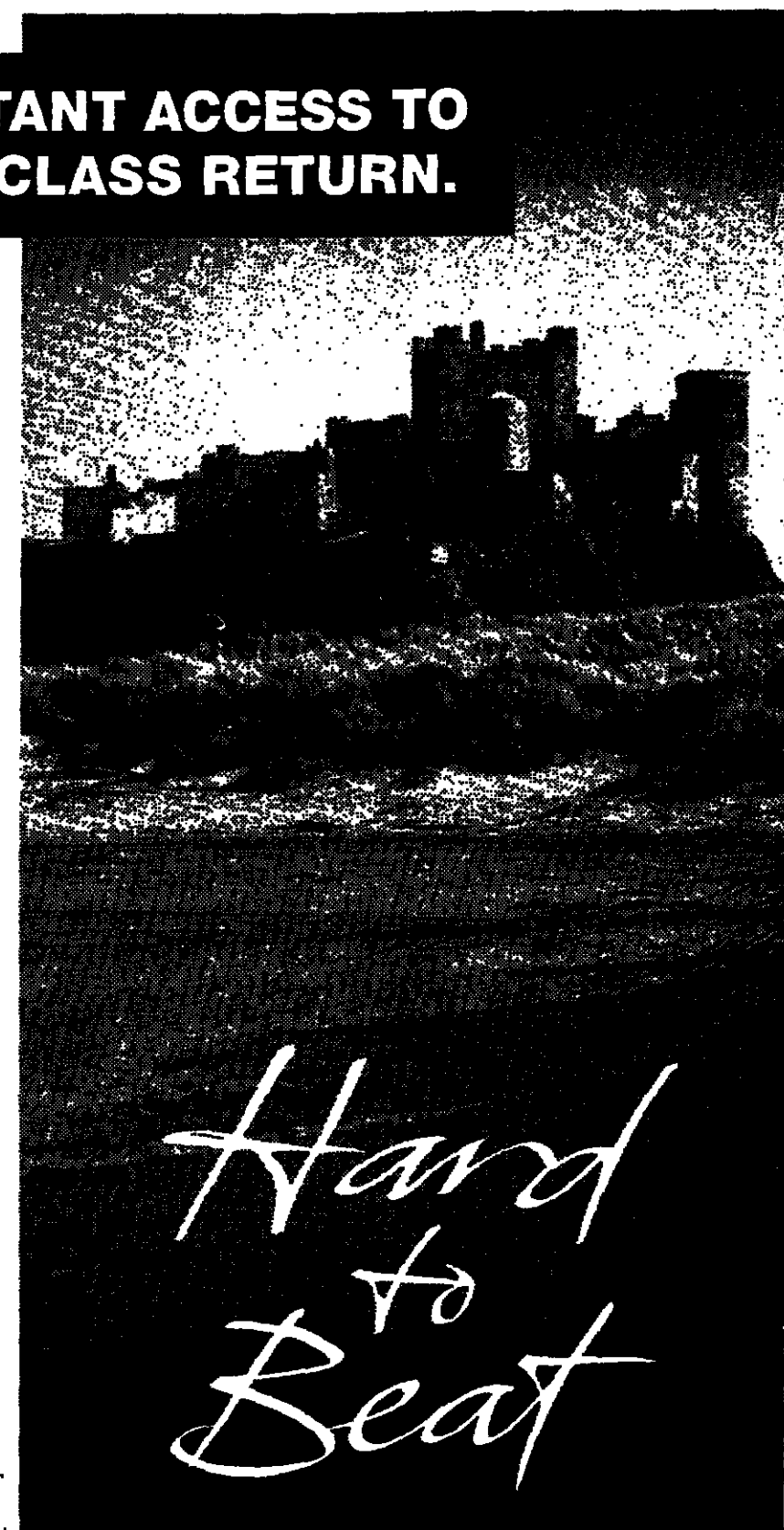
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## Best borrowing rates

Telephone	% Rate and period	Max adv %	Fee	Incentive	Redemption penalty
<b>MORTGAGES</b>					
<b>Fixed rates</b>					
Hinckley & Rugby BS 0800 774499	0.20 for 1 year	70	£250	Free U for 3 years	1st 5 yrs: indiv determined
West Bromwich BS 0121 525 7070	5.99 to 1/6/99	85	£295	£300 cash rebate	1st 6 yrs: 6% of advance
Northern Rock BS 0800 581500	7.24 to 1/6/01	95	£285	—	1st 6 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
<b>Variable rates</b>					
Scarborough BS 0800 590547	0.95 for 1 year	95	£150	—	1st 5 yrs: 6.29% of sum repaid
Halifax BS 0800 101110	4.39 to 30/6/99	90	—	Free valuation	To 30/6/03: 2-6% of advance
Principality BS 01222 344188	3.60 to 1/7/98	90	—	—	To 30/6/01: dis reclaimed
<b>First time buyers fixed rates</b>					
Bristol & West BS 0800 100117	0.95 to 30/4/97	90	£275	—	To 30/4/01: 8/6 mths interest
Coventry BS 0800 126125	4.20 to 1/5/98	95	£250	—	To 1/5/01: 6 mths interest
Skipton BS 01756 700511	7.65 to 30/6/01	95	£295	Free U & 3 mths B+C	1st 5 yrs: 5% of a/s balance
<b>First time buyers variable rates</b>					
Principality BS 01222 344188	1.00 to 1/7/97	90	—	—	To 31/6/01: discount reclaimed
Greenwich BS 0181 858 8212	3.75 for 2 years	95	—	—	1st 5 yrs: discount reclaimed
Halifax BS 0800 101110	5.69 to 30/6/01	90	—	£500 & free valn	To 30/6/03: 1/2/3/4/2% of adv

## PERSONAL LOANS

	Telephone	APR		Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 years)
				With insurance
Unsecured				Without insurance
Direct Line	0141 248 9966	13.90E		\$112.86
Yorkshire Bank	0345 181920	14.60		\$117.68
Midland Bank	0800 180180	14.90		\$115.82
Secured (second charge)				Max LTV Advance
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	7.40	Nag	\$2K - \$15K
Royal B of Scotland	Via branch	9.00	70%	\$2.5K-\$100K
Barclays Bank	0800 000929	9.0/10.0	80%	\$10K-75K
				Term
				6 mths to 25 years
				3 years to retirement
				5 to 25 years

## OVERDRAFTS

	Telephone	Account	Authorised % pm APR	Unauthorised % pm APR
Woodwich BS	0800 400900	Current	0.76 9.5	2.18 29.5
Alliance & Leicester	0500 959595	Alliance	0.76 9.5	2.20 29.8
Abbey National	0500 200500	Current	0.94 11.9	2.18 29.5

## CREDIT CARDS

Telephone	Card	Min %	Rate %	APR	Annual period	Int. free
<b>Standard</b>						
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	0.92	11.50	nil	0 days
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Access/Visa	—	0.95N	12.00N	nil N	56 days
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	1.00	14.00	£12	56 days
<b>Gold cards</b>						
Co-operative Bank 0345 212212	Visa	£20,000	0.50	10.50	£120	46 days
Royal Bank of Scotland 01702 362890	Visa	£20,000	1.05N	14.50N	£35	46 days
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Visa	£20,000	1.14	15.90	£35	56 days

## STORE CARDS

Telephone	Payment by direct debit % pm	APR	Payment by other methods % pm	APR
John Lewis in store	—	—	1.39	18.00
Marks and Spencer 01244 681681	1.87	24.80	1.97	26.30
Sears in store	1.94	25.50	2.20	29.80

APR Annualised percentage rate. B+C Buildings and Contents insurance (V Loan to value ASU Accident, sickness and unemployment). E Available to comprehensive motor insurance policyholders aged over 22 years. N Introductory rate for a limited period.

All rates subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01692 500677 9 May 1996

## Best savings rates

	Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>Instant Access</b>						
Portman BS	01202 292444	Instant Access	Instant	£100	4.80	Year
Co-operative Bank	0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	£5,000	5.00	Month
Sum Banking Corp	01438 744505	Liquidity	Instant	£25,000	5.25	Year
Skipton BS	01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£30,000	5.50	Year
<b>First Class Access</b>						
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	First Class Access	Postal	£1,000	4.90	Year
Alliance & Leic BS	0645 645680	Instant Direct	Postal	£5,000	5.40	Year
First National BS	0800 558844	Demand Deposit	Postal	£10,000	5.70	Year
Northern Rock BS	0500 505000	Great North Postal	Postal	£25,000	6.50	Year
<b>Fixed Rate</b>						
Coventry BS	0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day P	£2,000	5.45	Year
Coventry BS	0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day P	£10,000	6.10	Year
First National BS	0800 558844	90 Day Notice	90 day P	£10,000	6.20	Year
Chelsea BS	0800 272505	120 Account	120 day	£25,000	6.50	Year
<b>Instant Access</b>						
Kleinwort Benson	01202 502404	HICA	Instant	£2,500	5.25	Month
Scottish Widows Bank	0345 829829	Instant Access	Instant	£25,000	5.79	Month
Coventry BS	0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day P	£1,000	6.10	Month
Scarborough BS	0800 590578	Scarborough 75	75 day	£1,000	6.10	Month
<b>Fixed Rate</b>						
Chelsea BS	0800 272505	Fixed Rate Bond	1/8/97	£5,000	6.50F	Year
Woodwich BS	0800 222200	Fixed Rate Bond	2 Year	£1,000	6.80F	Year
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	Investment Bond	31/5/99	£2,500	7.20F	Year
Norwich & Peterborough	01733 391497	Fixed Rate Bond	5 Year	£10,000	7.60F	Year
<b>Fixed Rate</b>						
Sum Banking Corp	01438 744505		5 years	£8,575	7.40F	Year
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836		5 years	£9,000	7.30F	Year
Birmingham Midshires	0645 207021		5 years	£1,000	7.25	Year
Principality BS	01222 344188		5 years	£500	7.00	Year
<b>Fixed Rate</b>						
Northern Rock	0500 505000		5 years	£9,000	7.50	Year
Mercantile BS	0191 295 9500		5 years	£3,000	7.50	Year
Norwich & Peterborough	01733 391497		5 years	£9,000	7.45F	Year
Birmingham Midshires	0645 207021		5 years	£1,000	7.25	Year
<b>Fixed Rate</b>						
Premium Life	0800 414111		1 year	£10,000	4.95FN	Year
Premium Life	0800 414111		2 years	£20,000	5.85FN	Year
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388		3 years	£5,000	5.90FN	Year
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388		4 years	£5,000	6.20FN	Year
Pinnacle Assurance	0181 207 9007		5 years	£3,000	6.75FN	Year
<b>Fixed Rate</b>						
Northern Rock, Barm	01481 714600	Offshore Instant	Instant	£10,000	6.30	Year
Newcastle Bank, Gb	00 350 761 68	Nova Ninety Offshore	90 Day	£25,000	6.65	Year
Newcastle Bank, Gb	00 350 761 68	Nova Ninety Offshore	90 Day	£50,000	6.80	Year
Derbyshire (OOO)	01624 663432	Monex Bond	27/5/99	£5,000	7.35F	Year
<b>Fixed Rate</b>						
<b>Investment Accounts</b>			1 month	£20	5.00	Year
			3 months	£50	5.50	Year
			6 months	£25,000	5.75	Year
<b>Income Bonds</b>			3 months	£2,000	6.25	Month
			6 months	£25,000	6.50	Month
			12 months	£100	6.65F	Maturity
<b>Capital Bond</b>			5 years	£1,000	6.25F	Year
<b>First Option Bonds</b>			12 months	£20,000	6.50F	Year
			5 years	£500	7.00F	Month
<b>Pensioner's Guaranteed Income Bond</b>			5 year	£100	5.35F	Maturity
<b>NS Certificates (tax-free)</b>			5 year	£100	2.50-tpi	Maturity
<b>Children's Bond</b>			5 year	£25	6.75F	Maturity

P post only F fixed rate N not call A All withdrawals subject to 30 day loss of interest. Source: MONEYFACTS 01692 500677 9 May 1996

4 DAYS TO GO

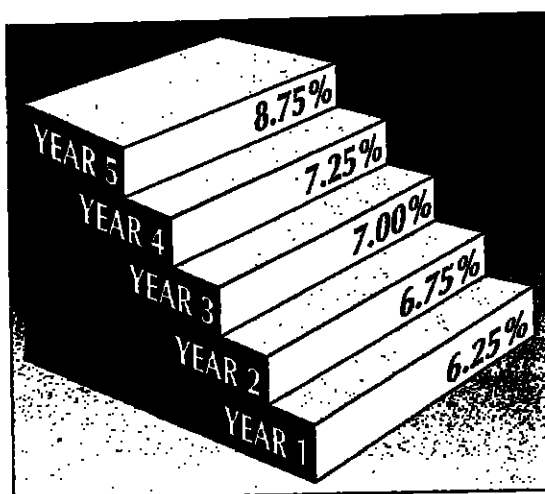
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## FEAR OF FINANCE

Clifford German

Applications for Railtrack shares have to be in by noon next Wednesday. The minimum application is for 200 shares, and the first instalment will cost individual investors who registered with a share shop 190p, a downpayment of £380.

The price for the second instalment, payable on or before 3 June next year, will not be decided until 20 May, but it will be between 150p and 190p, making a total price of between 340p and 380p.

This makes them something of a pig in a poke, but analysts have done the sums and pronounced the shares cheap on most basic criteria.

Even at 390p the full price of the shares is barely seven times the company's expected after-tax earnings in a year which has just ended, those shares are paying a notional dividend of up to 7.5 per cent gross on the current share price, and the dividend is covered a comfortable 2.6 times by the net earnings per share.

This is only half the average return on shares in the top 100 UK companies, which this week cost an average of almost 15 times their after-tax earnings, the dividends gross up to a bare 4 per cent on the share price and average dividends are covered only 2.13 times by earnings. The figures for the top 250 shares look even less competitive.

By all the classic definitions, Railtrack shares are suspiciously cheap. On any other share it would mean that the City thinks the company's growth prospects are zero and the div-

idend is likely to be cut. But in this case it does look as if the shares are being offered to up to two million members of a trusting public on whose votes the Government will hope to rely at election time within the next 12 months.

The calculations are based on estimated earnings of 53.8p a share for the year just ended, and a notional dividend of 20.6p. An actual dividend of 13.75p a share net, equal to 17.18p a share before tax will be paid on October 4 to all shareholders who are on the register on September 4. This will guarantee a yield of almost 20 per cent on the partly paid price.

An interim dividend for the year just started will be paid next February and a final dividend in October 1997.

That should ensure guaranteed appreciation in the share price when dealings begin on 20 May. There is no guarantee that the price of the shares will not fall once the unsatisfied demand from institutions has been satisfied, but the extra dividend provides a cushion on the price, and an incentive for investors not to sell their allocation as soon as trading begins. The Railtrack shares will certainly fall when they go ex dividend in the autumn, however, and thereafter they will be increasingly vulnerable to the election of a Labour government that is determined to hold down rail fares.

Buy now, but watch for the best time to take a profit is the best advice to would-be Railtrack investors next week.





## How low-risk can you get?

By Abigail Montrose

There are few things as attractive in the financial services as the word "guarantee". Its pulling power cannot be underestimated, as investors scour the market in search of high returns with little, if any, risk to their capital. But a closer look at what is actually being guaranteed often reveals a less attractive picture.

For one thing, it is crucial to know exactly what is being guaranteed. It is possible to buy guaranteed-income bonds, which offer a fixed rate of return over the life of the investment, usually five years. It is possible to buy guaranteed-growth bonds, which usually mean the income is rolled up into a single payment when the investment matures. And it is possible to get a guaranteed return linked to a stock market return. But inevitably you cannot have all three.

Guaranteed-income bonds (GIBs) issued by insurance companies are one of the few products to provide a set income without risk to your capital. You invest a lump sum for a fixed period of time, typically between one and 10 years, and in return you receive a fixed level of income over that period.

At the end of the term you get your money back in full, but you will not be protected against inflation or increases in interest rates, which usually accompany higher inflation rates.

GIBs are offered by a small band of insurance companies, including Abbey Life, AIG (also known as Alico), Black Horse, Consolidated Life (aka Financial Assurance), GAN Life, Generali, Pinnacle Assurance and Premium Life. Most of the big life companies do not offer GIBs because of their internal tax positions.

Investors have to decide how much they want to invest and for how long, and how often they want income, such as monthly or annually. You then need to look at what rates are on offer for your requirements and choose the best rate available. The best rates are offered on large amounts invested for longer periods of time on GIBs.

Once you see a rate of interest you are happy with you cannot afford to hang around, as rates can change overnight. Always check that the rate is still available before investing.

GIBs provide the security of knowing exactly how much income you are going to get, when you are going to

get it and for what period of time. The interest rate you lock into is all-important as you cannot renegotiate the rate once you've signed up and there are stiff penalties for early withdrawals, if indeed you are allowed to withdraw your money early at all.

GIB rates are based on current interest rates, so with many economists now predicting interest rates rise in the near future GIBs have fallen out of favour. Investors are unwilling to lock into GIB rates now as they may be considerably more attractive in six or 12 months' time.

Many independent financial advisers are advising clients not to invest in a GIB for too long a period while the outlook for interest rates is this uncertain.

"Beyond three years, people need to be wary of long-term bonds. But with a lot of building societies offering such poor rates, GIBs at least offer a better return than the societies over three years," says Brian Denney, managing director of the IFA firm Denney, Weller & Co.

Graham Hooper, investment director of the independent adviser Chase De Vere, agrees but believes there are a few bonds offering particularly good rates at present that could tempt investors to tie up their money for longer.

"You need to be selective about the rate you want. There are a few good products available at the moment. Over five years you should be looking for 7 per cent a year," he says.

The best GIB rates currently available range between 4 per cent on a lump-sum investment for £1,000 for one year, and 7.15 per cent for a minimum investment of £10,000 over five-and-a-half years.

The rates quoted for GIBs are net rates as the insurance company has already paid the tax, so there is no basic rate tax to be paid by the policyholder. This makes GIBs an attractive option for basic-rate taxpayers.

But they are not suitable for 20 per cent taxpayers or non-taxpayers as the tax already paid by the insurance company is not reclaimable by the investor. If a GIB is paying an income of more than 5 per cent a year, higher-rate taxpayers need to check with the insurance company to find out whether they will have to pay any additional tax.

## The safe side of the street

For the risk-averse investor, guaranteed-growth bonds look good. Simon Read reports

Investors seeking capital growth as opposed to income are often drawn to the limited-issue "guaranteed-growth bonds" offered by a number of insurance companies. Guaranteed-growth bonds pay no income, and like guaranteed-income bonds they do not protect you against inflation or rising interest rates, but they do guarantee the return of your original capital, plus a fixed rate of growth paid out when the bond matures.

Insurance companies that have issued such bonds in recent months include Black Horse Life, EuroLife, Hamilton Life, NatWest Life, Pinnacle Insurance, Reliance Mutual and Zurich Life. The minimum investment is typically around £5,000. The bonds are generally issued by the newer or smaller insurance companies, but investors' cash is protected by the Policyholders' Protection Act, which guarantees a 90 per cent payout in the event of the insurance company failing.

Returns are all paid net of basic-rate tax, which makes the projected growth look even more attractive. However, non-taxpayers cannot reclaim the tax and higher-rate taxpayers have to stump up the difference between basic-rate tax and their own tax rate.

These variations on the "guaranteed" theme are lump-sum investments, and so are not suitable for regular savers, and generally offer fixed returns over a set period – usually five years.

Guaranteed-growth bonds have proven extremely popular with many investors not prepared to take risks with their cash. There has been a trend towards the long-term assurance of growth, as opposed to the roller-coaster ride that is offered by direct investment in the stock market, and guaranteed-growth bonds currently offer better rates of return than many savings vehicles that carry a similar degree of security, such as building society accounts.

For seriously risk-averse investors it is worth noting that many of the guaranteed-income bonds offered by the life companies are in effect growth bonds – in that they offer the option of having the income reinvested to produce guaranteed gains. Johnson Fry's Income Bonus Bond is a typical example. Offered in conjunction with Finan-



The Tokyo stock market. Tipped as a star performer for growth bonds

cial Assurance Company, it gives an annual return of 8 per cent or an accumulated return of 55 per cent over five and a half years. It is available until 17 May, but Johnson Fry says it will be launching a new bond from 26 June.

Also coming up is a new bond from EuroLife, which is expected to be similar to its recent 60 per cent growth bond over five years. Independent financial advisers will be able to keep investors informed of further upcoming issues in the bond world.

The main drawbacks with these bonds is their inflexibility. Generally, you will forfeit any of the guarantees offered by the bonds if you are forced to cash them in early. That means you must be prepared to sit out the full length of the bond's term to get the benefits.

Locking in at the wrong fixed rate could also be a mistake if rates subsequently rise, leaving your return looking paltry. Despite that, the bonds issued this year have proven to be very popular.

"Guaranteed or low-risk investments are of interest to the majority of our customers, who are generally risk-

averse," said Paul Stott of NatWest Life. "They are of most interest to those people who want to invest capital for a specific term in a low-risk environment such as those who are just approaching retirement and who, at the end of the term, plan to draw an income from their cash when they subsequently reinvest it into, say, an income bond or a corporate bond PERP."

Guaranteed-growth bonds that offer a fixed gain at maturity should not be confused with guaranteed-growth bonds linked to the performance of the stock market. These offer investors the guarantee of their capital back, plus a percentage of growth according to how much the stock market has risen. However, if the stock market falls, there will be no growth, just the return of the original capital.

GA Life's Guaranteed Security Portfolio is a typical stock market-linked guaranteed growth bond. Three-quarters of the fund is invested in equities, with the remaining 25 per cent in fixed-interest investments such as gilts. "It's aimed at people who want to get into the stock market but who don't

want to lose their shirts," said Ian Harper of GA Life. "The safety net means that investors never get less than their money back as long as they invest for five years."

Buyers of these products should note that it is your capital that is "guaranteed", not the growth!

One aspect of equity investment that holders of these bonds miss out on are the dividends paid by many stocks but, then again, the holders are not risking their money (unlike those in income bonds linked to stock market performance).

Another potential drawback is the fact that many of these "growth" bonds only pay out a percentage of any growth in the stock market, in effect putting a cap on how much money investors can have.

For instance, Black Horse Life's Premier Bond, which is available to new investors until 16 May, offers the greater of either 125 per cent of the original investment or 60 per cent of any growth in the FT-SE 100 Index over the six-year term of the bond. NatWest Life's Guaranteed Growth Plus Bond offers a similar minimum return of 125 per cent, but a maximum return of 170 per cent, over five and a half years.

Recently we have seen the launch of guaranteed-growth bonds investing in other markets. The Japanese stock market, for instance, was tipped to be one of 1996's star performers, which prompted a flurry of bonds investing in that part of the world. Save & Prosper offered a Japanese guaranteed stock market bond providing 120 per cent of the average growth of the Japanese market over three and a half years. This was followed by the Lotus Bond from Sun Alliance, based on the performance of the Nikkei Stock Index 300. It offered to share out growth of at least 135 per cent over five years.

These stock market-related growth bonds are really aimed at the slightly more sophisticated investors who are happy linking their investments to stock market returns.

Independent Financial Advisers David Aaron & partners are offering independent readers a free eight-page booklet covering all aspects of guaranteed bonds. Call free on 01908-281544.

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## money guaranteed bonds

### Risk takers: start here

By Christine Stopp

**G**uaranteed equity bonds are the riskiest of the guaranteed family. They attract the investor who can't currently survive on the income from building society rates of interest. But a one-point move on either the UK or the US stock markets could spell the difference between a 50 per cent gain and a 50 per cent loss in your capital over five years in one of these bonds.

Just what are these attractive but dangerous vehicles? They are a species of guaranteed bond with complicated built-in rules, tied to stock market performances and which aim to give high income plus, all being well, some or all of your original capital back.

Such bonds have a cut-off date for investment, and a minimum input of up to £5,000. The exact terms for these bonds vary, so it is essential to understand the small print of each bond thoroughly.

A bond currently on offer from Financial Assurance/Johnson Fry offers a potential 10 per cent return over five years. A Financial Assurance bond launching in mid-May promises 10.25 per cent. An issue from a large UK insurer is expected in June with a yield of 10.5 per cent. These are far higher yields than a bank or building society can offer, so how do they do it?

A typical bond works like this. Let's say you make a £10,000 investment. During the life of the bond (usually five or five-and-a-half years) you will get an annual income of 10 per cent - that's £1,000 a year in this case. The minimum guarantee, according to the brochure, is that you will get your original investment back.

But what may not be understood by investors is this means that if either the FT-SE 100 or the S&P 500 is lower at the end of the period than at the start, you get back your original capital less the income you have received meanwhile. So with a 10 per cent five-year bond you will have received £5,000 in income and then if the relevant index is down when time is up you would only get £5,000 capital back.

Over every five-year period since the FT-SE index began in 1984, claims the literature from Financial Assurance, the two indices have achieved an average growth rate of more than 50 per cent. So if the future resembles the recent past you

should get your income and your start capital back.

But intermediaries are more cautious. BEST Investment, which has done a good deal of research into guaranteed investments, points out that looking back further than 1984 there have been periods when markets were indeed down over five years.

These bonds, it says, represent an interesting gamble on the future level of stock markets but we question whether the person who needs to maximise his or her income should be gambling capital on the stock market.

On the bright side, if the indices are the same as or above their starting point at the end of the term, you get income and your original capital back with no deductions. So these bonds are a simple bet between the investor and the companies offering them on how the markets will do.

The risk of both stock markets being down over the period is thought to be minimal and daily index levels are averaged over the last year of the bond's life to reduce vulnerability to last-minute fluctuations.

It is worth remembering that there is usually an up-front charge on these bonds so that not all of your money will be invested. However, Baronworth and a number of other intermediaries offer a discount on the 3 per cent adviser's commission they earn.

Elsewhere good returns can still currently be made on secure investments that do not depend so crucially on stock market movements.

National Savings offer a range of fixed returns, many of them tax-free. It is also possible to get a running yield of 8 per cent on a 10-year gilt, without any loss of capital or with only a small loss when the stock matures.

National permanent-interest bearing shares (PIBs) are another source of high-income returns - typically yielding around 9.5 per cent at the start of this month - with a number of issues from substantial building societies offering minimal risk. Yields on both gilts and PIBs vary daily.

Such products are not sold aggressively to investors because they lack an up-front commission, but a local stockbroker should be prepared to advise you.

## The only way is up

What are the attractions of the escalator bond? By Abigail Montrose

**I**nvestors looking for both a guaranteed and rising income over the next years should consider escalator or step-up bonds. These bonds guarantee to pay a set amount each year for a fixed period. The income increases each year and at the end of the term, which is usually three or five years, your capital is returned to you in full.

Escalator bonds provide a regular income, which may be ideal for anyone looking for extra income to top up their pension or provide them with an income during a career break or a return to full-time education.

These bonds are offered by building societies and banks. The minimum investment varies between £500 and £5,000 depending on the provider, and income is paid monthly, half-yearly or annually.

To get the best rates, investors should opt for an annual income. Unlike other bonds, the interest rate you receive is not based on the size of your investment, so you get the same rate of interest whether you invest £5,000 or £50,000.

This can make escalator bonds highly competitive for small investors looking for a guaranteed income from a cash-based deposit.

For example, Portman Building Society requires a minimum investment of just £500 on its five-year escalator bond. The annual income rises from 6 per cent to 6.25 per cent, 6.5 per cent, 7 per cent and finally 9 per cent over the term.

Elsewhere you can start off with an income as low as 4 per cent rising to 12 per cent over the term. (For the latest rates available check the weekend press or Teletext).

Rates change regularly on bonds so when you've discovered one which suits you, telephone the bank or building society to check that the rate is still being offered.

These bonds offer investors peace of mind as you know exactly how much interest your money is going to earn for a set period of time, and there is no risk to your capital. The rising income also allows for inflation which bonds paying a level rate of interest do not.

"Most people see their costs go up over the years, so escalator bonds with their rising income may be more appropriate to their needs than, say, guaranteed-income bonds, which pay a flat rate of interest and make no allowance for inflation," says Amanda Davidson, a partner at the independent financial advisers Holden Meehan.



Start at the bottom: Getting on the escalator brings a guaranteed income from a cash-based deposit

There's political uncertainty and a gut feeling interest rates will go up. I don't subscribe to this view.

"I think the economy still needs some invigorating and interest rates at worst will stay where they are or probably come down in the next few months," he says.

But you may feel that in the current political climate it is better to remain flexible and opt for a short-term bond rather than, say, a five-year bond.

One of the latest bonds to be launched is a three-year one from Abbey National. It is paying an annual income of 6 per cent, rising to 7 per cent and then 8.5 per cent in year three. With the base rate currently at 6 per cent this seems a good deal, says Mr Sanham, as the interest rate would have to rise by more than 2.5 per cent over the next three years to match this rate.

However, income on these bonds is taxable, which means that for a taxpayer the net rates are significantly lower (so you may well be better off with a guaranteed income bond).

If you are a non-taxpayer you should ask for the income to be paid gross. Fill in form R85, available from either the Inland Revenue or the bank or building society with which you take out the bond.

Escalator bonds are ideal for those investors looking for a reliable income with no risk to their capital, but they are not the only products available with these features.

Non-taxpayers should also look at National Savings Income bonds or, if they are old enough, National Savings Pension bonds, while 20 per cent taxpayers should consider National Savings First Option bonds.

Banks and building societies offering escalator bonds include Abbey National, Bank of Ireland, Bank of Scotland, Barclays Bank, Birmingham Midshires Building Society, Coventry Building Society, Dunfermline Building Society, Halifax Building Society, Leicestershire Building Society, Lloyds Bank, Lloyds TSB, National Westminster Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland, Sun Bank, TSB and Woolwich Building Society.

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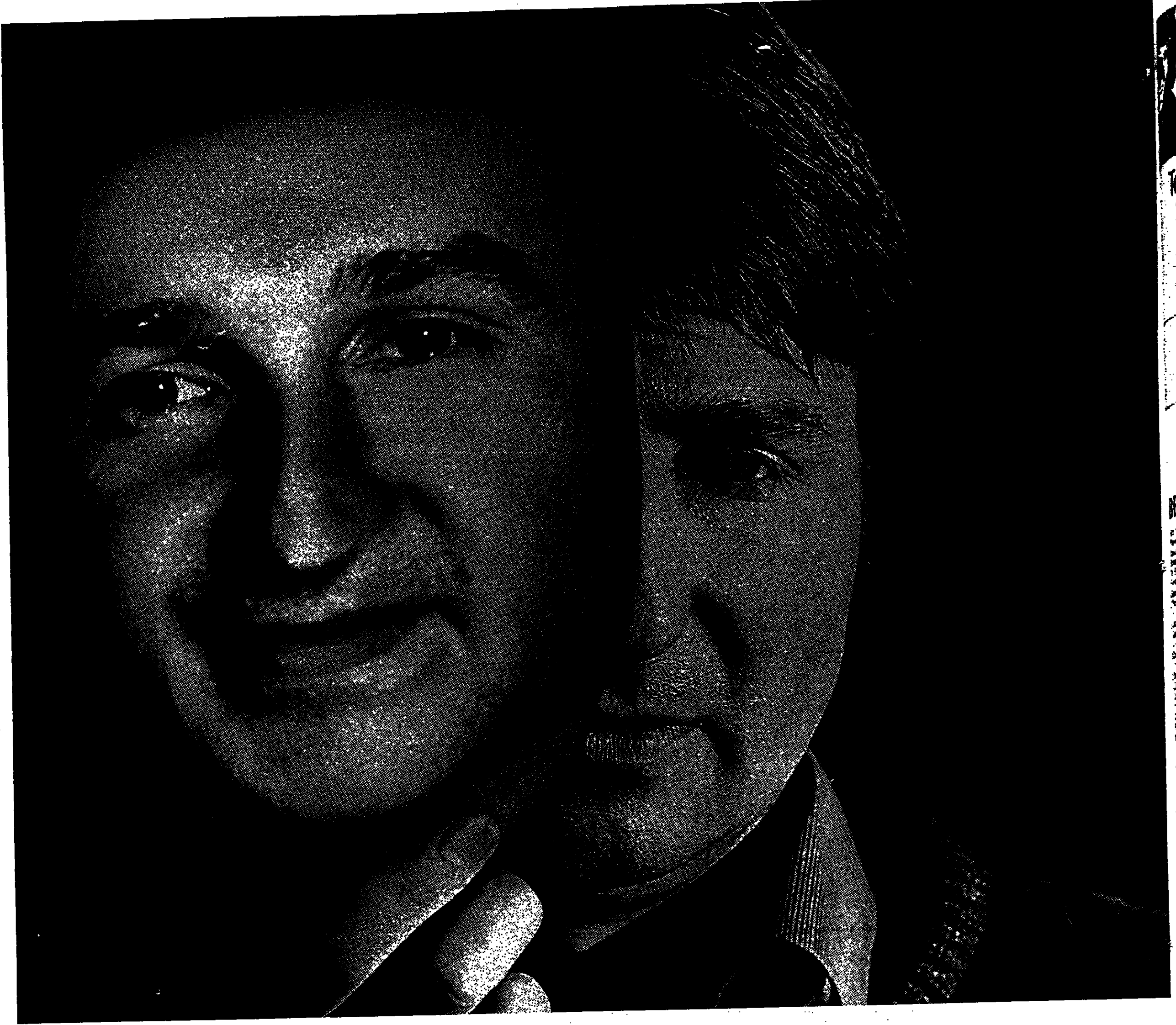
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## staying in

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Television</b> by Gerard Gilbert	<p><b>7.30pm</b> <i>EastEnders</i> (BBC1). The story of the lives of the residents of Walford.</p> <p><b>8.00pm</b> <i>Newsnight</i> (BBC2). A weekly news programme.</p> <p><b>8.30pm</b> <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> (BBC1). A comedy sketch show.</p> <p><b>9.00pm</b> <i>Comic Relief</i> (BBC1). A charity comedy show.</p> <p><b>9.30pm</b> <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> (BBC1). A comedy sketch show.</p> <p><b>10.00pm</b> <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> (BBC1). A comedy sketch show.</p>	<p><b>7.30pm</b> <i>EastEnders</i> (BBC1). The story of the lives of the residents of Walford.</p> <p><b>8.00pm</b> <i>Newsnight</i> (BBC2). A weekly news programme.</p> <p><b>8.30pm</b> <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> (BBC1). A comedy sketch show.</p> <p><b>9.00pm</b> <i>Comic Relief</i> (BBC1). A charity comedy show.</p> <p><b>9.30pm</b> <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> (BBC1). A comedy sketch show.</p> <p><b>10.00pm</b> <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> (BBC1). A comedy sketch show.</p>	<p><b>7.30pm</b> <i>EastEnders</i> (BBC1). The story of the lives of the residents of Walford.</p> <p><b>8.00pm</b> <i>Newsnight</i> (BBC2). A weekly news programme.</p> <p><b>8.30pm</b> <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> (BBC1). A comedy sketch show.</p> <p><b>9.00pm</b> <i>Comic Relief</i> (BBC1). A charity comedy show.</p> <p><b>9.30pm</b> <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> (BBC1). A comedy sketch show.</p> <p><b>10.00pm</b> <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> (BBC1). A comedy sketch show.</p>	<p><b>7.30pm</b> <i>EastEnders</i> (BBC1). The story of the lives of the residents of Walford.</p> <p><b>8.00pm</b> <i>Newsnight</i> (BBC2). A weekly news programme.</p> <p><b>8.30pm</b> <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> (BBC1). A comedy sketch show.</p> <p><b>9.00pm</b> <i>Comic Relief</i> (BBC1). A charity comedy show.</p> <p><b>9.30pm</b> <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> (BBC1). A comedy sketch show.</p> <p><b>10.00pm</b> <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> (BBC1). A comedy sketch show.</p>	<p><b>7.30pm</b> <i>EastEnders</i> (BBC1). The story of the lives of the residents of Walford.</p> <p><b>8.00pm</b> <i>Newsnight</i> (BBC2). A weekly news programme.</p> <p><b>8.30pm</b> <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> (BBC1). A comedy sketch show.</p> <p><b>9.00pm</b> <i>Comic Relief</i> (BBC1). A charity comedy show.</p> <p><b>9.30pm</b> <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> (BBC1). A comedy sketch show.</p> <p><b>10.00pm</b> <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i> (BBC1). A comedy sketch show.</p>
<b>Radio</b> by Robert Harris	<p><b>7.30pm</b> <i>Radio 1</i> (BBC1). A pop music radio station.</p> <p><b>8.00pm</b> <i>Radio 2</i> (BBC2). A pop music radio station.</p> <p><b>8.30pm</b> <i>Radio 3</i> (BBC3). A classical music radio station.</p> <p><b>9.00pm</b> <i>Radio 4</i> (BBC4). A news and current affairs radio station.</p> <p><b>9.30pm</b> <i>Radio 5</i> (BBC5). A sports radio station.</p>	<p><b>7.30pm</b> <i>Radio 1</i> (BBC1). A pop music radio station.</p> <p><b>8.00pm</b> <i>Radio 2</i> (BBC2). A pop music radio station.</p> <p><b>8.30pm</b> <i>Radio 3</i> (BBC3). A classical music radio station.</p> <p><b>9.00pm</b> <i>Radio 4</i> (BBC4). A news and current affairs radio station.</p> <p><b>9.30pm</b> <i>Radio 5</i> (BBC5). A sports radio station.</p>	<p><b>7.30pm</b> <i>Radio 1</i> (BBC1). A pop music radio station.</p> <p><b>8.00pm</b> <i>Radio 2</i> (BBC2). A pop music radio station.</p> <p><b>8.30pm</b> <i>Radio 3</i> (BBC3). A classical music radio station.</p> <p><b>9.00pm</b> <i>Radio 4</i> (BBC4). A news and current affairs radio station.</p> <p><b>9.30pm</b> <i>Radio 5</i> (BBC5). A sports radio station.</p>	<p><b>7.30pm</b> <i>Radio 1</i> (BBC1). A pop music radio station.</p> <p><b>8.00pm</b> <i>Radio 2</i> (BBC2). A pop music radio station.</p> <p><b>8.30pm</b> <i>Radio 3</i> (BBC3). A classical music radio station.</p> <p><b>9.00pm</b> <i>Radio 4</i> (BBC4). A news and current affairs radio station.</p> <p><b>9.30pm</b> <i>Radio 5</i> (BBC5). A sports radio station.</p>	<p><b>7.30pm</b> <i>Radio 1</i> (BBC1). A pop music radio station.</p> <p><b>8.00pm</b> <i>Radio 2</i> (BBC2). A pop music radio station.</p> <p><b>8.30pm</b> <i>Radio 3</i> (BBC3). A classical music radio station.</p> <p><b>9.00pm</b> <i>Radio 4</i> (BBC4). A news and current affairs radio station.</p> <p><b>9.30pm</b> <i>Radio 5</i> (BBC5). A sports radio station.</p>

## Sunday television and radio

## BBC1

- 7.30 *Jim Henson's Animal Show* (4895183).  
7.55 *Playdays* (R) (S) (6173102).  
8.15 *Teletubbies* (R) (S) (5347833).  
8.30 *Breakfast with Frost* (14034).  
9.30 *To Be a Pilgrim* (R) (S) (5724560).  
9.45 *First Light* (S) (114576).  
10.15 *See Hear!* Magazine for the deaf (S) (106657).  
10.45 *This Multimedia Business*. CD-ROMs explained (R) (S) (2416270).  
11.00 *Local Heroes* (R) (S) (9706).  
11.30 *Gardening from Scratch*. Constructing a simple water feature (R) (S) (1015).  
12.00 *Countryfile*. With John Craven (including *Weather for the Week Ahead*) (S) (56676).  
12.30 *On the Record* (68102).  
1.30 *EastEnders Omnibus* (R) (S) (5751454).  
2.55 *Columbo*. Leslie Nielsen - playing it straight - is the guest suspect (4012096).  
4.05 *Cartoon* (R) (6651034).  
4.15 *Slitback*. Viewers complain (S) (8761928).  
4.55 *Masterchef 1996*. Loyd Grossman is joined by chef Gordon Ramsay from the Aubergine, London, and cricketer Alan Lamb (S) (7408725).  
5.30 *News: Weather* (576015).  
5.55 *Regional News* (769947).  
5.55 *Songs of Praise*. From the New Forest, with The Bournemouth Sinfonietta (S) (339544).  
6.30 *Antiques Roadshow*. The first of four shows from the archives begins with a rare speed appearance from Dawson, circa 1986. In other words, the BBC like the size of the ratings but have come to the end of the present series (R) (S) (591015).  
7.15 *No Bananas*. 2/10. Continuing the sassy drama about two very different families (one rich; one poor) brought together during the Second World War. Dorothea (Stephanie Beacham) is annoyed when Evelyn (Alison Steadman) insists on taking in evacuees (S) (693676).  
8.05 *25 Years of the Two Ronnies* (627454).  
8.45 *Birds of a Feather* (R) (S) (27744).  
9.15 *News: Weather* (133034).  
9.30 *Karaoke 3/4*. On-going Dennis Potter drama finds Alison Steadman making her second appearance of the evening on BBC1 - here as Sandra's disfigured mother (S) (542831).  
10.25 *Everyman*. See *Preview* (S) (407454).  
11.15 *Dangerous Liaisons* (Stephen Frears 1988 UK). See *The Big Picture* (S) (934454).  
1.10 *Weather* (506597). To 1.15am.  
REGIONS. Wales: 12.00pm *Homeland*. 10.25 *Answering Back*. 10.55 *Everyman*. 11.45 *Cricket*. 12.30 *Film: Dangerous Liaisons*. 2.25 *News: Weather*. 10.25pm *The Clancy Connection*. 11.15 *Everyman*. 12.05 *Film: Dangerous Liaisons*. 12.05 *Weather*.

## BBC2

- 9.10 *Children's BBC: Rupert*. 9.15 *The Littlest Pet Shop*. 9.35 *X-Men*. 10.00 *Fully Booked*.  
12.00 *Regional Programmes* (S) (4218).  
12.30 *Sunday Gameplan*. With Sue Barker. 12.35 *Touring Cars*. coverage of rounds five and six of the AutoTrader RAC British Touring Car Championship from Thruxton. 1.05 *Motorcycling*. action from round three of the British Superbike Championship from Oulton Park. 1.25 *Cricket: Sussex v Warwickshire* in the AXA Equity and Law Sunday League. 3.30 *Racing*. live coverage of the French 1,000 Guineas from Longchamps. Plus news of the Prix Lupin. 3.45 *Rugby Union: Highlights of the Middlesex Sevens* final from Twickenham. 4.00 *Racing*. live coverage of the French 2,000 Guineas from Longchamps. 4.15 *Rugby Union*. 4.45 *Cricket* (S) (8545367).  
6.20 *News Round-Up* (489299).  
6.35 *The End of the Western World*. See *Preview* (525676).  
7.15 *A History of British Art: The Independent's* Andrew Graham-Dixon travels to Norfolk, Margate and Dedham Vale, exploring the paintings of Constable and Turner. Plus the strange world of William Blake and the erotic work of Henry Fuseli (S) (691218).  
8.05 *Kali the Lion*. A female lion's struggle to support her family in Kenya's Masai Mara while the easy way - zebra, wildebeest and whistling - are away on holiday (R) (S) (824270).  
9.00 *Fantasy Football League*. With Des Lynam, Zoe Ball and Jimmy Hill. Shown on Friday (S) (8154).  
9.30 *Shogun and Son* (R) (62725).  
10.00 *Q & A* (Sidney Lumet 1990 US). Clean-cut *Dr Timothy Hutton* investigates thoroughly bad apple cop Nick Nolte (the best thing in the film) in a New York police department (S) (90711639).  
12.05 *La Cage aux Folles* (Eduard Molinaro 1978 Fr). Much-loved farce is screened in time for you to be able to compare it with the Robin Williams remake, *Birds of a Feather*. Ugo Tognazzi and the brilliant Michel Serrault as the gay owners of a Riviera transvestite club. Complications ensue when the ultra-conservative parents of their son's fiancée come a-visiting (6952771).  
1.35 *Weather* (313481).  
1.40 *Pages from Cezanne* (1311684).  
2.00 *The Learning Zone: Adults Learning* (59810).  
4.00 *Language: Learning Languages* (33874).  
5.00 *Business and Work*. *Work* is a Four-Letter Word (S) (44077). 5.30 *The Knowledge* (S) (61394).  
REGIONS. Wales: 12.00pm *Welsh Lobby*. 1.25 *Cricket*. 4.45 *Cricket*. 12.00pm *Sounds of the Eighties*.

## ITV/London

- 6.00 *GMTV*. 6.00 *The Sunday Review*. 6.30 *News and Sport*. 7.00 *The Sunday Programme* (30560).  
8.00 *Disney Adventures*. Includes *Sunrise*, *Little Mermaid* and *Good Traps* (782876).  
9.25 *The Adventures of Grady Greengrass* (7667299).  
9.50 *James Bond Jr* (S) (7887657).  
10.15 *Sunday Heres* (S) (8182034).  
10.25 *Sunday*. Including, at 10.45am, Morning Worship from St Mary's Church, Taunton (S) (39686837).  
12.10 *Link* (S) (4692367).  
1.00 *News, Weather* (40510657).  
1.10 *Joan D'Amico: Sirin Fein's Martin McGuinness*. Faces Dumbly and the studio audience (S) (4314725).  
2.00 *Murder, She Wrote*. Jessica is invited to a diplomatic reception in Washington. Bad idea. This old bird shouldn't be invited to get out of bed in the morning (4638021).  
2.55 *The Sunday Match - Live*. Charlton v Crystal Palace (5458054).  
5.10 *World of Wonder*. Meet some "storm chasers", amateurs who go looking for tornadoes, and a bloke who pursues dangerous sports despite being paralysed from the waist down (2473744).  
5.40 *London Tonight* (558367).  
6.00 *News, Weather* (496589).  
6.15 *Supernatural* (S) (947251).  
7.15 *Doctor Finlay*. One by one the nurse at a convent start to suffer from strange medical symptoms. Last in series. (S) (976763).  
8.15 *You've Been Framed!* (R) (S) (263541).  
8.45 *News, Weather* (110522).  
9.00 *The Knock*. Andreotti goes undercover to crack a ruthless bootlegging gang. (S) (3589).  
10.00 *The Clive James Show*. Margarita Pracatan, Alan Davies and Victoria Wood (S) (422763).  
10.45 *The South Bank Show*. Profile of conductor John Eliot Gardiner, and the composer's Revolutionary at the Royal Opera (S) (219982).  
11.45 *Theatricals*. Reviews of *Fever Pitch*, the stage play of the Nick Hornby book (271560).  
12.15 *Sledge Hammer*. Spoof cop show. (S) (33232).  
12.45 *Bandolero!* (Andrew V McLagen 1968 US). Messy Sicilians western with (un)casted outlaws James Stewart and Dean Martin taking Raquel Welch hostage in their bid to escape the gallows. Co-stars George Kennedy (608519).  
2.45 *Hindie Walkers* (Arthur Crabtree 1952 UK). Cross-class tear-jerker about a Lancashire mill girl who gets involved with the boss's son while on holiday. The scandal of it is (S) (90772).  
4.05 *ITV Sport Classics*.  
4.35 *Shift* (R) (9454313). To 5.30am.

## Channel 4

- 6.10 *Trans World Sport* (R) (5244638).  
7.05 *Take 5*. With *The Magic Roundabout*, *Bush Tails*, *Neddy*, *For the Engine and Juggy Bear* (S) (2481763).  
7.35 *The Magic School Bus* (S) (4887164).  
8.00 *Sonic the Hedgehog* (46299).  
8.30 *The Trap Door* (5157164).  
8.35 *Blast Off* (S) (7104367).  
8.45 *Biker Mice from Mars* (R) (101102).  
9.15 *Saved by the Bell* (R) (7669657).  
9.40 *Dumb and Dumber* (S) (9782283).  
10.00 *The Bird* (S) (2324893).  
10.15 *Sister Sister* (S) (6830096).  
10.40 *Black's Modern Life* (S) (8877541).  
11.05 *Islands* (9478833).  
11.20 *NBA Raw*. Chicago Bulls (with Michael Jordan on duty) play the New York Knicks (4570763).  
12.15 *The Waltons* (R) (435831).  
1.15 *Tess of the Storm Country* (Paul Guilfoyle 1961 US). Off-melodrama starring Diane Baker as a Scottish girl who comes to Pennsylvania to find her fiancé has been killed (51057096).  
2.50 *Football Italia*. Roma v Internazionale is the last televised match of the Serie A this season (53328639).  
5.05 *Zig and Zag's Dirty Deeds*. The latest flawed attempt to launch Big Breakfast presenters on their own (see *The Gaby Roslin Show*) finds the two funny ones helping Frank Carson fix the Golden Mile Award. The Muppets were doing this sort of stuff decades ago - and better (S) (9884270).  
5.35 *Hollyoaks* (R) (773589).  
6.05 *Babylon 5* (S) (108638).  
7.00 *Hidden Kingdoms*. The Khareef - the monsoon wind of Oman that blows in from the Indian Ocean (S) (5947).  
8.00 *Encounters: Lost Paradise*. See *Preview* (1367).  
9.00 *Music and the Mind*. Paul Robertson continues his investigation into how music affects us emotionally in terms of the neurophysiology of the brain. For example, autistic 21-year-old Tony has the mental age of nine, yet is capable of rocking the house as a jazz musician (S) (4832).  
10.00 *City Slickers* (Ron Underwood 1991 US). Amusing comedy western starring Billy Crystal, Daniel Stern and Bruno Kirby as middle-age city dwellers who go on a cattle drive to get away from it all. Jack Palance won a Best Supporting Actor Oscar as the head wrangler cowboy in charge of the venture. Avoid the sequel (S) (7811855).  
12.05 *Distant Thunder* (Satyajit Ray 1973 Ind). Moving account of the famine in Bengal in 1943, focused on the experience of a Brahmin doctor and his wife in a small village (813856).  
1.55 *Feast Day*. Animation. (2489690). To 2.10am.

## ITV/Regions

- ASDA**  
As London except: 2.00pm *The Road Show* (2908). 2.30 *The Alamo* (6528541). 5.20 *Heaven* (6247652). 11.45 *Film: The Big Red One* (681638). 1.45am *Home Babylon* (1197665). 2.30am *Best of British Motor Sport* (98961). 3.00am *Funny Business* (82771). 3.30am *Shift* (50058). 4.30-5.30am *All in a Good Cause* (97503).
- THE TESTS**  
As London except: 12.30pm *Newsnight* (4634947). 2.00 *The Powers That Be* (4634947). 2.30 *The Road and Goal Years* (2908). 2.30 *Cartoon* (2411183). 2.35 *Film: The Calm Before the Storm* (66578152). 4.50 *RedoCop* (6636350). 11.45 *Film: Who's That Girl* (655218). 1.30am *Film: Kiss Me No Kiva* (9319261). 4.05am *Probe* (6874771). 4.15-5.30am *Johnny Rotten* (8382561).
- CENTRAL**  
As London except: 12.30pm *Central Newsweek* (4634947). 2.00 *Good Advice* (2908). 2.30 *The Central Match* (4634947). 5.05 *Newsnight* (4634947). 5.25 *Our House* (6246928). 11.45 *War of the Worlds* (215164). 4.05am *Johnny Rotten* (831874). 5.20-5.30am *John Peel* (9046400).
- ITV**  
As London except: 12.30pm *West: What You Want Here*. (4634947). *Wales: Welsh Legends* (4634947). 2.00 *Irish: The Irish* (716345). 2.50 *All in a Good Cause* (1039980). 3.55 *West: How Time Flies* (6195222). *Wales: Wales* (6055501). 4.25 *Wales: Film: The Captain's Tale* (721987). 4.55 *West: Seaside Story* (1070074). 11.45 *Film: The Big Red One* (681638). 1.45am *Home Babylon* (1197665). 2.30am *Best of British Motor Sport* (98961). 3.00am *Funny Business* (82771). 3.30am *Shift* (50058). 4.30-5.30am *All in a Good Cause* (97503).
- MEDIAN**  
As London except: 12.30pm *Sunday News* (82771). 2.00 *Make 'em Laugh* (2908). 2.30 *Film: Total Recall* (839252). 5.00 *Highway to Heaven* (8231725). 11.45 *Film: The Big Red One* (681638). 1.45am *Home Babylon* (1197665). 2.30am *Best of British Motor Sport* (98961). 3.00am *Funny Business* (82771). 3.30am *Shift* (50058). 4.30-5.30am *All in a Good Cause* (97503).
- S4C**  
As London except: 6.00am *Transworld Sport* (5244638). 7.05 *Take 5* (2481763). 8.00 *The Adventures of Grady Greengrass* (7667299). 10.10 *Hollyoaks* (773589). 10.40 *Sister Sister* (6830096). 11.45 *Film: The Big Red One* (681638). 1.45am *Home Babylon* (1197665). 2.30am *Best of British Motor Sport* (98961). 3.00am *Funny Business* (82771). 3.30am *Shift* (50058). 4.30-5.30am *All in a Good Cause* (97503).

## Radio

- Radio 1**  
(615-99.2MHz FM)  
7.00am *Kevin Greening* 10.00 *Dave Pearce* 2.00 *Frankie Knolly* 4.00 *UK Top 40* 7.00 *The Bryan Ferry Show* 8.00 *John Peel* 10.00 *Andy Kershaw* 12.00 *Mary Anne Hobbs* 4.00-6.30am *Charlie Jordan*
- Radio 2**  
(89-90.2MHz FM)  
7.00am *Don Maclean* 9.05 *Steve Wright's Sunday Love Songs* 11.00 *Parliament's Sunday Supplement* 1.00 *Desmond Carrington* 3.00 *Benny Green* 4.00 *Radio 2 Young Musician* 1996 4.30 *Sing Songs* 7.00 *thing Simple* 5.00 *Pam Ayres* 7.00 *Charlie Dance* 8.30 *Sunday Half Hour* 10.00 *Alan Keith* 10.00 *When the Music Stopped* 12.05 *Steve Madden* 3.00-6.00am *Alex Lester*
- Radio 3**  
(92-92.2MHz FM)  
7.00am *Sacred and Profane*. 8.55 *Choice of Three*. With pianist Martin Roscoe. 9.00 *Brian Kay's Sunday Morning*. 12.15 *Music Matters*. 1.00 *News*. 1.05 *Michael Billington* talks to Warren Mitchell and Timothy West about their experiences playing the patriarchal character of Max in Harold Pinter's play *The Homecoming*, first performed at the RSC in 1965. (2/5). 1.25 *North Wales Music Festival*. Schubert: String Quartet Movement in C minor. Tippett: String Quartet in C. 2.50 *Spirit of the Age*. 3.55 *Kettle's Yard Music*. (3/3). 5.45 *The Sunday Feature*: High Priestess of the Keyboard. A Portrait of Clara Schumann. See *Choice*. 6.30 *Lars Vogt*. Haydn: Piano Sonata in G. Brahms: Piano Sonata in F minor, Op. 5. 7.30 *The Sunday Play*: *Brahms on a Slow Train*. Award-winning dramatist David Pownall returns to the theme of composers with a fascinating look at the complex relationship between the young eagle Johannes Brahms and his devoted mentors Robert and Clara Schumann. See *Choice*. 9.15 *Choir Works*. Elgar: *The Apostles*. Introduced by Brian Wright. 11.30 *That Music*. (3/3). 12.00 *Record Review*. 1.15 *Through the Night*. Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. 4.15 *Rebel Ensemble*. 5.00-6.00am *Sequence*.



## Choice

All you ever wanted to know about Clara Schumann: her life explored in *High Priestess of the Keyboard* (5.45pm R); her relationship with Robert and Brahms dramatised in *Brahms on a Slow Train* (7.30pm R); with Denis Quillan, (left); and from tomorrow she's "Composer of the Week".

- Radio 4**  
(62-64.2MHz FM)  
7.00am *News*. 7.10 *Sunday Papers*. 7.15 *On Your Farm*. 7.40 *Sunday*. 8.50 *The Week's Good Cause*. 9.00 *News*. 9.10 *Sunday Papers*. 9.15 *Letter from America*. 9.30 *Morning Service*. 10.15 *The Archers*. 11.15 *Mediawave*. 11.45 *A View from Abroad*. (3/6). 12.15 *Desert Island Discs*. With comedian Hugh Laurie. 12.55 *Weather*. 2.00 *The World This Weekend*. 2.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 3.00 *Gardener's Question Time*. 3.30 *Pick of the Week*. 4.15 *The Purple, the Blue and the Red*. (1/3). 6.00 *News*. 6.05 *Hitchcock on the Moon*. 6.30 *Postscript*. 6.50 *Shipping Forecast*. 7.00 *News*. 7.05 *Shipping Forecast*. 7.10 *News*. 7.15 *Shipping Forecast*. 7.20 *News*. 7.25 *Shipping Forecast*. 7.30 *News*. 7.35 *Shipping Forecast*. 7.40 *News*. 7.45 *Shipping Forecast*. 7.50 *News*. 7.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 8.00 *News*. 8.05 *Shipping Forecast*. 8.10 *News*. 8.15 *Shipping Forecast*. 8.20 *News*. 8.25 *Shipping Forecast*. 8.30 *News*. 8.35 *Shipping Forecast*. 8.40 *News*. 8.45 *Shipping Forecast*. 8.50 *News*. 8.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 9.00 *News*. 9.05 *Shipping Forecast*. 9.10 *News*. 9.15 *Shipping Forecast*. 9.20 *News*. 9.25 *Shipping Forecast*. 9.30 *News*. 9.35 *Shipping Forecast*. 9.40 *News*. 9.45 *Shipping Forecast*. 9.50 *News*. 9.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 10.00 *News*. 10.05 *Shipping Forecast*. 10.10 *News*. 10.15 *Shipping Forecast*. 10.20 *News*. 10.25 *Shipping Forecast*. 10.30 *News*. 10.35 *Shipping Forecast*. 10.40 *News*. 10.45 *Shipping Forecast*. 10.50 *News*. 10.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 11.00 *News*. 11.05 *Shipping Forecast*. 11.10 *News*. 11.15 *Shipping Forecast*. 11.20 *News*. 11.25 *Shipping Forecast*. 11.30 *News*. 11.35 *Shipping Forecast*. 11.40 *News*. 11.45 *Shipping Forecast*. 11.50 *News*. 11.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 12.00 *News*. 12.05 *Shipping Forecast*. 12.10 *News*. 12.15 *Shipping Forecast*. 12.20 *News*. 12.25 *Shipping Forecast*. 12.30 *News*. 12.35 *Shipping Forecast*. 12.40 *News*. 12.45 *Shipping Forecast*. 12.50 *News*. 12.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 1.00 *News*. 1.05 *Shipping Forecast*. 1.10 *News*. 1.15 *Shipping Forecast*. 1.20 *News*. 1.25 *Shipping Forecast*. 1.30 *News*. 1.35 *Shipping Forecast*. 1.40 *News*. 1.45 *Shipping Forecast*. 1.50 *News*. 1.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 2.00 *News*. 2.05 *Shipping Forecast*. 2.10 *News*. 2.15 *Shipping Forecast*. 2.20 *News*. 2.25 *Shipping Forecast*. 2.30 *News*. 2.35 *Shipping Forecast*. 2.40 *News*. 2.45 *Shipping Forecast*. 2.50 *News*. 2.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 3.00 *News*. 3.05 *Shipping Forecast*. 3.10 *News*. 3.15 *Shipping Forecast*. 3.20 *News*. 3.25 *Shipping Forecast*. 3.30 *News*. 3.35 *Shipping Forecast*. 3.40 *News*. 3.45 *Shipping Forecast*. 3.50 *News*. 3.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 4.00 *News*. 4.05 *Shipping Forecast*. 4.10 *News*. 4.15 *Shipping Forecast*. 4.20 *News*. 4.25 *Shipping Forecast*. 4.30 *News*. 4.35 *Shipping Forecast*. 4.40 *News*. 4.45 *Shipping Forecast*. 4.50 *News*. 4.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 5.00 *News*. 5.05 *Shipping Forecast*. 5.10 *News*. 5.15 *Shipping Forecast*. 5.20 *News*. 5.25 *Shipping Forecast*. 5.30 *News*. 5.35 *Shipping Forecast*. 5.40 *News*. 5.45 *Shipping Forecast*. 5.50 *News*. 5.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 6.00 *News*. 6.05 *Shipping Forecast*. 6.10 *News*. 6.15 *Shipping Forecast*. 6.20 *News*. 6.25 *Shipping Forecast*. 6.30 *News*. 6.35 *Shipping Forecast*. 6.40 *News*. 6.45 *Shipping Forecast*. 6.50 *News*. 6.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 7.00 *News*. 7.05 *Shipping Forecast*. 7.10 *News*. 7.15 *Shipping Forecast*. 7.20 *News*. 7.25 *Shipping Forecast*. 7.30 *News*. 7.35 *Shipping Forecast*. 7.40 *News*. 7.45 *Shipping Forecast*. 7.50 *News*. 7.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 8.00 *News*. 8.05 *Shipping Forecast*. 8.10 *News*. 8.15 *Shipping Forecast*. 8.20 *News*. 8.25 *Shipping Forecast*. 8.30 *News*. 8.35 *Shipping Forecast*. 8.40 *News*. 8.45 *Shipping Forecast*. 8.50 *News*. 8.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 9.00 *News*. 9.05 *Shipping Forecast*. 9.10 *News*. 9.15 <





## The big picture

**Dangerous Liaisons**  
Sun 11.15pm BBC1

John Malkovich is at his best when he is playing a salivating insinuator, witness his masterful assassin in *In the Line of Fire*. He curls his lip in similarly devastating effect as the lupine Vicomte de Merteuil, sexually plotting with the scheming Marquise de Merteuil (the equally compelling Glenn Close) in Stephen Frears's exquisite realisation of *Dangerous Liaisons*. Christopher Hampton's fiercely intelligent reading of the play about 18th-century mores by Choderlos de Laclos rightly picked up the Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar in 1988.

## Television preview

RECOMMENDED VIEWING THIS WEEKEND  
by Gerard Gilbert



**Captives** Sat 9.45pm BBC2  
Later with Jools Holland Sat 11.55pm BBC2  
The End of the Western World Sun 6.35pm BBC2  
Lost Paradise, Encounters Sun 8pm C4  
Everyman Sun 10.25pm BBC1

While the blokes discuss the finer merits of Liverpool and Manchester United, here is one of life's imponderables for the ladies. If you were Julia Ormond (a prettier version of Julia Roberts, for the uninitiated), would you risk losing your sanity, career and even your liberty for Tim Roth? Al Pacino, Brad Pitt or Daniel Day-Lewis, maybe. But Tim Roth?

This isn't just rather cruel idle speculation. It goes to the heart of *Captives* (BBC2 Sat), Frank Deasy's well-written *Screen Two* about a prison dentist (Ormond) who starts an affair with an inmate (Roth). Now, Roth is a man who has built a surprisingly profitable career out of playing wry young punks, but no one – not even Quentin Tarantino – has tried casting him as a romantic lead before. You can sense why they did ("two of Britain's rising stars in Hollywood" reads the Beeb blurb), but it stretches the central credibility of an otherwise modestly admirable piece. *Captives* is peppered with, in British terms, star players (Keith Allen, Siobhan Redmond, Peter Capaldi, Colin Salmon) in roles that could safely have

been left to less recognisable faces. But the real find here is Julia Ormond, who hints at why Hollywood might be so potty about her. A fine, pared-down performance.

Understated isn't a word you'd apply to Martin Jacques, former deputy editor of this paper, as he charges around the countries of East Asia in *The End of the Western World* (Sun BBC2), a title that catches your attention without what it heralds necessarily telling you much that is new. In a nutshell, the five-century-old domination of Europe and the West is at an end. All hail the mighty "tiger" economies of Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea, China and Japan.

The *Encounters* film *Lost Paradise* (Sun C4) has a genial American bod called Robert Perkins borrowing a motorbike from his neighbour, strapping a camera and pet terrier to the sidecar, and setting off in the footsteps of John Muir. The Scottish-born Muir was a 19th-century naturalist who eschewed the handiworks of man after nearly being blinded in a factory accident. Instead, he set off on foot to discover the wildernesses of North America, inspiring the world's

first national parks, including Yosemite. Judging from the trailer-park and motel-littered landscape of this film, Americans owe John Muir a large debt.

For muso-purists, a seventh series of *Later with Jools Holland* (Sat BBC2) kicks off with Willy Nelson, the Cure, Tashin Archer and Mark Morrison. The "in the round" format of the show, with the bands facing each other in a circle, provides a welcome competitive element, although it doesn't manage to do anything for Robert Smith's singing. *Everyman* (Sun BBC1), meanwhile, has a riveting film about the Jesus Army, a religious outfit that has created its own kind of state-within-a-state, complete with supermarkets, garages and an extensive property portfolio. It seems to have done this by "pooling" the worldly possessions of its disciples and exploiting their labour. The Jesus Army largely target the young and homeless, and you won't easily forget the image of Neil, hyperactively sorting apples and clearly mentally unstable. But can you safely call this exploitation when the alternative would be a cardboard box



## The big match

**Manchester United v Liverpool**  
Sat 3pm BBC1

The BBC is drafting in 90 people and 18 cameras to send its footage of the FA Cup final between Manchester United and Liverpool to more than 100 countries around the world. Des Lynam hosts BBC1's five-and-a-quarter hours coverage, which sadly lacks the *It's a Knockout* contest of old. The match itself looks evenly balanced, with both teams boasting exciting playmakers. Will Liverpool prove more motivated now that Manchester United, under Alex Ferguson (above), already have the Premiership trophy nestling in their cabinet?

# Saturday television and radio

## BBC1

- 7.25 **News: Weather** (2078850).
- 7.30 **Children's BBC: Willy Fog**, 7.55 Robinson Sucroe, 8.15 The Raccoons, 8.45 Marvel Action Hour, 9.45 Grange Hill, 10.15 Sweet Valley High.
- 10.35 **The O Zone**. Jackson family offspring 31 are guests and take that's manager Nigel Martin talks about his latest signing, Kavanah (S) (8827546).
- 11.00 **Harry and the Hendersons** (R) (3812492).
- 11.20 **Cartoon** (9388667).
- 11.30 **Camp Wilder**. Teen sitcom (55558).
- 11.57 **Weather** (5151817).
- 12.00 **FA Cup Final Grandstand**. It's Cup Final Day, of course, and the encounter between Manchester United and Liverpool dominates today's proceedings. 12.05 Team News. 12.20 Cup Final Build-Up. 1.00 News followed by an exclusive interview with Eric Cantona. 1.05 Cup Final Build-Up: the teams arrive and inspect the pitch, plus more action from the previous rounds. 2.15 Meet The Teams. 2.30 Pre-Match Build-Up: including the traditional singing of 'Auld with Me' and a penalty shoot-out between team members from the 1977 final. 3.00 The FA Cup Final: live coverage of Manchester United v Liverpool (S) (95920343).
- 5.14 **Alternative Schedule** (If extra time is played). 5.40 News: Weather. 5.50 Local News. Weather. 5.55 As billed. (Stay Tuned is dropped) (5559492).
- 5.15 **News: Weather** (7311701).
- 5.25 **Local News: Weather** (5587275).
- 5.30 **Stay Tuned!** With Tony Robinson (S) (161255).
- 5.55 **Big Break: Stars of the Future** (S) (164343).
- 6.25 **The New Adventures of Superman** (S) (253445).
- 7.10 **Confessions**. Meet the bloke who stole the ball during rugby union's 1991 Pilkington Cup Final. And more (S) (1738988).
- 7.50 **The National Lottery Live**. Gloria Estefan gets the balls rolling (S) (417188).
- 8.05 **Bugs**. There's been a computer crash at the East European Monetary Commission, aimed at stabilising the region. Enter three former soap stars (S) (495343).
- 8.55 **News and Sport: Weather** (Followed by National Lottery Update) (266701).
- 9.15 **Praying Mantis** (James Keach 1992 US). Jane Seymour as a husband-dispatching serial killer has to be one of the great pieces of miscasting. Pretty damn hot round, co-starring Barry Bostwick, and Frances Fisher as a suspicious potential sister-in-law (115985).
- 10.45 **Match of the Day - FA Cup Final Highlights**. With Desmond Lynam (S) (4022072).
- 11.55 **Mannegün** (Michael Gottlieb 1987 US). Alleged comedy about a young man (Andrew McCarthy) who discovers an ancient Egyptian spirit is embodied in a department-store mannequin. His passion for the dummy concerns his friends. Kim Cattrall co-stars (568237).
- 1.20 **Weather** (8288469). To 1.25am.
- REGIONS**. NI: 11.55 Rugby Special. 12.25 Film: Mannegün. 1.50 Weather.

## BBC2

- 6.00 **Open University: Are You Being Served?** (7288188). 6.25 Maths (7267695). 6.50 Systems: Coping with Queues (5290188). 7.15 The Sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia (3243879). 7.40 Elements Organised - The Periodic Table (4822237). 8.05 Utilitarianism: A Lecture by Bernard Williams (7338633). 8.30 The Island: An Historical Production? (8802053). 8.55 Energy at the Crossroads (8821188). 9.20 Surviving the Exam (7697430). 9.45 Alaska - The Last Frontier? (6212698). 10.10 Going with the Flow (6873965). 10.25 Managing Schools (8825188). 11.00 Statistics: Ecological Predictions (6871633). 11.25 Densification - A Threat to Peace? (S) (3828053). 11.50 Blue Haven (8624237).
- 12.15 **Love Me Tonight** (Rouben Mamoulian 1932 US). One of the greatest musicals ever made, finely scored by Rodgers and Hart, about a penniless Parisian tailor (Maurice Chevalier) mistaken for an eligible nobleman by a princess. Jeanette MacDonald (2384850).
- 1.40 **Brigadoon** (Vincente Minnelli 1954 US). Famous for its Hollywood studio recreation of the Scottish Highlands and some of the most atrocious Scottish accents ever aimed at a microphone, Minnelli's musical has Americans Gene Kelly and Van Johnson stumbling on a village which comes to life on one day every century (42352188).
- 3.25 **Gigi** (Vincente Minnelli 1958 US). "Thank Heavens for Little Girls" and all that, in Lerner and Loewe's cheerful, super-confident musical version of the Colette story set in 1890s Paris. With Leslie Caron, Maurice Chevalier, Louis Jourdan, and Hermione Gingold (22541576).
- 5.15 **The 1996 RFU Awards**. Highlights of this year's Rugby Football Union awards dinner (1908527).
- 6.05 **Members on the March: A Scrutiny Film**. Miriam O'Callaghan questions the Armed Forces Select Committee over issues such as whether gays should be admitted and why there are so few ethnic minorities in the services (527275).
- 6.50 **What the Papers Say**. With Brownen Maddox of the Financial Times (S) (128362).
- 7.05 **News and Sport: Weather** (701879).
- 7.20 **Correspondent**. Jane Corbin reports from India on how the switch from traditional fish-farming methods to intensive production are resulting in increased pollution. Plus how drug users are handled in Tokyo and Norfolk Island's campaign for independence from Australia (S) (811546).
- 8.05 **F D R**. World War Two ends this handsome Roosevelt biography (2027594).
- 9.15 **Have I Got News for You**. With Martin Clunes, Neil Morrissey and Claire Rayner (254411).
- 9.45 **Screen Two: Captives**. See Preview (S) (436661).
- 11.25 **Stephen and Son** (896659).
- 11.55 **Later with Jools Holland**. See Preview (S) (932701). To 1.0am.

## ITV/London

- 6.00 **GMTV** 6.00 News: Weather. 6.10 Re-Wind. 6.30 Bananas in Pyjamas. 6.40 Eat Your Words. 7.10 Barney and Friends. 7.40 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.55 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (1513530).
- 9.25 **Scratchy & Co.** including 10.05 Batman: the Animated Series, followed by Are You Afraid of the Dark? 11.00 Massive on the Isle of Wight. With Matt Venn, Sean Maguire and the Mizz Magazine Roadshow (S) (12327614).
- 11.30 **The Chart Show** (S) (30879).
- 12.30 **The Basement**. New series with Sonya Saul meeting celebs and pop bands. Top DJ Carl Cox discusses Ecstasy and dance drugs, and the sisters of Ecstasy victim Leah Betts talk about her death. With music from indie band Bavi (42594).
- 1.00 **News: Weather** (58435188).
- 1.05 **Local News: Weather** (58434459).
- 1.10 **Movies**. Games and Videos (1945966).
- 1.45 **The Making of Broken Arrow** (R) (776430).
- 2.15 **Time Trax** (S) (717021).
- 3.00 **Janet** (R) (6504140).
- 3.55 **RoboCop** (S) (6144898).
- 4.50 **News: Weather** (6141169).
- 5.05 **Local News: Weather** (7317985).
- 5.15 **Baywatch Nights**. Baywatch spin-off finds Mitch, Garner and Ryan search for a runaway girl who has witnessed the murder of a record-label executive (S) (1995053).
- 6.05 **International Gladiators** (S) (151256).
- 7.05 **Man O'Man**. Chris Tarrant chaperones another 10 boys as they meet the all-female studio audience (S) (457362).
- 8.05 **Stars in Their Eyes**. People impersonate Billy Idol, Ian Delfino, Julio Iglesias and Jean-Luc Godard (including Lottery Result) (S) (406459).
- 8.50 **News: National Lottery Update: Weather** (Followed by UWT Weather) (278546).
- 9.05 **London's Burning**. The Blue Watch returns continue with the boys rescuing an old fireman from a blaze and Colin's probationary period coming to an end (R) (S) (577492).
- 10.05 **Dirty Dancing** (Emile Ardolino 1987 US). A bright dance musical carries along a bubble-headed, retro-vision of growing up in the 1960s, with doctor's daughter Jennifer Gray learning to love and dance in the company of working class instructor Patrick Swayze (S) (170695).
- 11.55 **Funny Business**. With Chris Charles and John Thomson of The Last Show (S) (494411).
- 12.25 **Pyjama Party** (S) (6040980).
- 1.55 **Tropical Heat** (S) (1381763).
- 2.45 **El News Review**. Entertainment news (1252541).
- 3.35 **Go's Gift**. Similar idea to *Man O'Man* (see earlier), with Davina McCall in the Chris Tarrant role (S) (1125251).
- 4.30 **Cool Vibes** (S) (46940304).
- 4.40 **ITV Sport Classics II** (64012522).
- 5.05 **Coach** (R) (5056893).
- 5.30 **News** (64367). To 6.00am.

## Channel 4

- 6.05 **Sesame Street** (R) (5270053).
- 7.00 **Little Orca** (R) (8176169).
- 7.35 **World League Football** (R) (4810492).
- 8.00 **Trans World Sport** (10256).
- 9.00 **The Morning Line**. Preview of today's horse racing (S) (12527).
- 10.00 **The Greatest**. Jeffrey Archer joins in to consider Sir Leonard Hutton and Sebastian Coe (R) (S) (59599).
- 10.30 **NBA 24/7** (R) (81362).
- 11.00 **Gazzetta Football Italia** (94463).
- 12.00 **Sign On: Secret Dreams** (72614).
- 12.30 **The Great Maratha** (4665817).
- 12.55 **The Adventures of Don Juan** (Vincent Sherman 1949 US). William Faulkner was one of the many writers who worked on this rather downbeat, semi-satirical swashbuckler, with Errol Flynn rescuing Queen Margaret of Spain from her enemies. Economically, it apparently incorporates footage from *The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex* (see later) and *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (59234324).
- 2.35 **The Unicorn in the Garden**. The James Thurber story in an animation classic from 1953, directed by Bill Hurt (7614169).
- 3.05 **The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex** (Michael Curtiz 1939 US). Betta Davis' Queen Elizabeth I completely overshadows Errol Flynn's Essex – and, without some daredevil swordsmanship to distract from his acting, Flynn looks like he's not enjoying himself. Davis herself had lobbied for Laurence Olivier (88396362).
- 5.05 **Brookside Omnibus** (R) (S) (7325053).
- 6.30 **Right to Reply** (S) (459).
- 7.00 **Andrew Rawnsley** (S) (7430).
- 8.00 **Cutting Edge: Sudden Death**. Repeat documentary following the work of Carol Jordan and Joan Carter, who work as funeral officers for Hackney Council in east London, identifying those who die alone and unknown (R) (3850).
- 9.00 **The Gaby Roslin Show**. Cybill Shepherd is a confirmed guest (S) (3614).
- 10.00 **Drop the Dead Donkey**. The sitcom news team decide how far to bow under Government pressure (R) (S) (73434).
- 10.30 **Night of the Living Dead** (George A Romero 1968 US). Sordid horror movie, moving the whole genre into the modern era, finds the dead reanimated by radiation fallout and acquiring a taste for human flesh (27080576).
- 12.25 **Horrorline - Life on the Street**. Baltimore cop show from Barry Levinson. Tempers flare on the night shift because the air conditioning has been shut off (R) (S) (7934763).
- 1.25 **To Heal a Nation** (Michael Pressman 1988 US). True story in which Eric Roberts (brother of Julia) plays Vietnam veteran Jan Scruggs who leads the campaign to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington (468102). To 3.10am.

## ITV/Regions

- AMBA**  
As London except 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (42594). 1.10 *Time You Ruined My Life* (S) (1837782). 3.00 *Sequoia* (S) (5904140). 11.55 *Live from the Lydians* (387237). 1.00am *Pyjama Party* (20367). 2.30am *Funny Business* (36744). 3.00am *Film: Beautiful but Dangerous* (268305). 4.45am *Music Box Profile* (46922541). 5.00-5.30am *Wanted Dead or Alive* (73986).
- TIME 1230/1230**  
As London except 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (42594). 1.10 *Summers* (7254465). 1.08 *Play the Game* (S) (18181). 7.30 *Arrows* (613879). 11.55 *Live from the Lydians* (49441). 12.25am *Funny Business* (489252). 12.55am *Pyjama Party* (2105643). 2.25am *The War of the Worlds* (739015). 3.15am *Omibus Classified* (2285850). 4.00am *Coach* (3264361). 4.25am *Cue the Music* (2447164). 5.20-5.30am *Profile* (3159262).
- CENTRAL**  
As London except 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (42594). 1.10 *Male on the Loose* (3131588). 1.40 *Went Dead or Alive* (8891889). 2.10 *Went to the Sun* (5704614). 2.30 *Baywatch* (9037188). 3.25 *Arrows* (552375). 4.20 *Body Heat* (802817). 5.10 *Wanted Dead or Alive* (584168). 5.30am *Leander* (335102). 5.20-5.30am *Asian Night* (S) (159828).
- ITV**  
As London except 12.30pm The Muppet Show (42594). 1.10 *West House* (20335). 2.00 *The Muppet Show* (5091). 2.30 *The Road Show* (508). 11.55 *Live from the Lydians* (387237). 1.00am *Pyjama Party* (20367). 2.30am *Funny Business* (36744). 3.00am *Film: Beautiful but Dangerous* (268305). 4.45am *Music Box Profile* (46922541). 5.00-5.30am *Wanted Dead or Alive* (73986).
- MERIDIAN**  
As London except 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (42594). 1.10 *Went to the Sun* (5704614). 1.30 *Went Dead or Alive* (8891889). 2.00 *The Muppet Show* (5091). 2.30 *The Road Show* (508). 11.55 *Live from the Lydians* (387237). 1.00am *Pyjama Party* (20367). 2.30am *Funny Business* (36744). 3.00am *Film: Beautiful but Dangerous* (268305). 4.45am *Music Box Profile* (46922541). 5.00-5.30am *Wanted Dead or Alive* (73986).
- WESTCOUNTRY**  
As London except 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (42594). 1.10 *Went to the Sun* (5704614). 1.30 *Went Dead or Alive* (8891889). 2.00 *The Muppet Show* (5091). 2.30 *The Road Show* (508). 11.55 *Live from the Lydians* (387237). 1.00am *Pyjama Party* (20367). 2.30am *Funny Business* (36744). 3.00am *Film: Beautiful but Dangerous* (268305). 4.45am *Music Box Profile* (46922541). 5.00-5.30am *Wanted Dead or Alive* (73986).
- S4C**  
As C4 except 10.00am *Cymru'n Ffwrdd* (18504). 12.30 *The Greatest* (42576). 1.00 *NBA Raw* (13169). 1.30 *The Avengers* (6537879). 2.30 *Bush Tucker Man* (243817). 5.05 *Brookside* (72503). 6.30 *Haley Joel Osmeth* (459). 7.00 *Newyddion* (S) (720904). 7.15 *Gwasguddod* (935259). 7.45 *Had Season* (343527). 8.15 *Dylan Ddwy* (S) (4014). 8.45 *Went to the Sun* (5704614). 9.45 *Went to the Sun* (5704614). 11.05 *Film: Altered States* (238661). 1.00am *Dream Doll* (1321214). 1.15-1.25am *Glims Night* (S) (663657).

## Radio

### Radio 1

7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 12.30 Danny Baker 2.30 Jo Whiley 5.00 John Peel 7.00 Lovegrove Dance Party with Danny Rampling 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 The Radio 1 Dancehall Night 2.00 Essential Mix: Tim Linnis and Timp 4.00-7.00am Charlie Jordan

### Radio 2

6.00am Muz Dubs 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright's Saturday Show 1.00 Laughter USA 1.30 The News Hour 2.00 Judi Sifers 4.00 Nick Baragclough 5.00 Reading Music 6.00 Bryan Ferry in Concert 7.00 Legends of Light Music 7.30 Ruffie Henshall with Star Is Born 9.30 David Jacobs 10.00 Sheridan Morley 12.05 Charles Nove 4.00-7.00am Muz Dubs

### Radio 3

6.00am Record Review. With Jonathan Swan. Mozart: Piano Concerto No 19 in F. Dowland: A selection of songs and dances. Recha: Cello Concerto in B flat. Sibelius: Violin Concerto. 9.00 Building a Library: A survey of the keyboard works of François Couperin by Graham Sadler. 10.15 Record Release. Rautavaara: Symphony No 7. Schnittke: Hsionna von D. Johann Faust. McPhee: Tahiti-Tahiti. Lutoslawski: Concerto for orchestra. 12.00 Private Passions. Michael Berkeley talks to novelist Joanna Trollope, whose musical passions range from the sacred music of Mozart and Faure to Ella Fitzgerald singing Rodgers and Hart's *Milk and Honey*. 1.00 News: Vintage Years. David Mellor presents a portrait of Kristian Zimmerman who, in 1975, was the youngest-ever winner of the Warsaw Piano Competition, including music by Chopin, Brahms, Debussy and Schubert. (S-B). See Choice. 3.00 The Music Machine. Margaret. Tommy Pearson investigates musical forms. (7-8). 4.00 BBC National Orchestra of Wales Children's Concerts.

### Radio 4

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## Prebendary Douglas Cleverley Ford

Prebendary Douglas Cleverley Ford was a man of great ability. During a ministry of nearly 60 years he served his generation well – mainly in four spheres.

The first was as a parish priest: after a curacy in the seaside town of Bridlington in Yorkshire he became vicar of Holy Trinity, Hampstead (1942-55), then vicar of Holy Trinity with All Saints, South Kensington, near the Royal Albert Hall (1955-74). In both these churches he built up the congregations by the excellence of his preaching, to which he gave meticulous care, by his insistence on good music, and by his pastoral skill. People knew that if they went to him, especially if they were in trouble or perplexity, they would find a listening ear and an understanding mind. They knew that they mattered – to him and to God.

Secondly, he worked as a theological college lecturer and as the first Honorary Director of the College of Preachers (1960-73). He was a graduate of the London College of Divinity, after obtaining his degrees at London University, and he served his college as lecturer

over many years. His students found in him a man who could speak with an authority derived from sound scholarship combined with pastoral experience. He had a lively mind.



Cleverley Ford: Preaching Today

The College of Preachers was born in 1960 as the result of a small conference of people concerned with the poor state of preaching in the Church of England. It had no buildings and little finance. Its courses were held in a variety of places throughout the country. The college was fortunate in having Cleverley Ford as its first Di-

rector – a task which he combined with his parochial work, to the benefit of both. Many hundreds of clergy as well as Readers have him to thank for his care, for the lucidity of his lectures, and for the renewal of their preaching work. He did more than any other man of his generation in raising the standard of preaching in the Church of England.

The third sphere in which he excelled was as senior chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury (1975-80). During my years in that office I benefited greatly from his work. In the nature of the case, that was mainly "behind the scenes". He was a man of sound judgement with whom one could share many of the problems which come to one's desk at Lambeth. He had a shrewd assessment of character. He was loved by the staff at Lambeth, and his secretaries would do anything for him.

His fourth skill was as a writer. Over many years, he wrote prolifically, bearing in mind those to whom he had lectured. He desired to enable preachers to do their work with honesty and enthusiasm and to enlist all the help at their dis-

posal in making preaching what it is intended to be – intelligent, interesting, down to earth.

The influence of his writings however went far beyond the men and women in the pulpit. Through his books (such as *Preaching Today*, 1969; *God's Masterpieces*, 1991), through articles, through the notes he constantly wrote for the Bible Reading Fellowship, he reached many thousands of readers.

As a man, he was quiet. Like the Servant in Isaiah, he did "not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street". He did not need to. Some would say he was reserved; but those who knew him best enjoyed his deliciously keen sense of humour which lightened many a difficult situation.

Among the honours that came to him, he was Rural Dean of Westminster (1965-74), Chaplain to the Queen (1973-84), and Prebendary of St Pauls.

Donald Coggan

Douglas William Cleverley Ford, priest: born 4 March 1914; ordained deacon 1937, priest 1938; married 1939 Olga Bewley (died 1983); died Lingfield, Surrey 4 May 1996.

## Luana Patten

Nine-year-old Luana Patten's first scene in Walt Disney's *Song of the South* (1947) shows her angrily snatching a puppy away from her rough-neck older brother who is threatening to drown it. Later she gives the dog to Johnny (10-year-old Bobby Driscoll, who was to die in 1968 after years of comeback attempts and drug abuse), a boy miserable over the break-up of his parents' marriage. Harve Foster, who directed the film's live-action sequences, declared little Luana "a natural".

*Song of the South* was her second film; her first had been MGM's *Little Mr Jim* (1946), a syrupy tale of children on an army post, but Metro didn't recognise Luana Patten's potential. Disney did, and followed up her *Song of the South* success with roles in *Fan and Fanny* (1948, both part-cartoon, part-live action revues). In *So Dear to My Heart* (1949), another period story with animation scenes, she was again cast as Driscoll's sympathetic playmate. Disney intended *Johnny Thelma* (1957) for his TV show, but this story of the American Revolution cost so much to



A natural: Patten with James Baskett in *Song of the South*, 1947. Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

film, it was decided to release it theatrically in the United States. It was Luana's last Disney film for nine years.

After teenager roles in such minor items as *Joe Dakota*,

*Rock, Pretty Baby* (both 1957), *The Wonderful Years* (1958), *The Young Captives* and *The Music Box Kid* (both 1960), Patten found herself back at the studio where she started, making

*Home From the Hill*, under the direction of Vicente Minnelli.

MGM boosted its 1960 release with the excited words: "Home From the Hill is the answer to exhibitors' cry for New Faces, with the presentation of a trio of young people – George Peppard, George Hamilton and Luana Patten – in roles important enough to establish them as potential star power for the future!" Despite the publicity, MGM did more for the two Georges than for Luana, who was given unexciting roles in *Go Naked in the World* (1960) and *Thunder of Drums* (1961), and then forgotten.

There were other films; she made the Civil War tear-jerker *The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come* (1961) at Fox, and the ghastly *Boy Scouts* tribute *Follow Me, Boys!* (1966) back at Disney, but Luana Patten, who had married in 1960, was content to settle at the age of 28, for a 20-year film career.

Dick Vosburgh

Luana Patten, actress: born Long Beach, California 6 July 1938; married John Smith 1960 (marriage dissolved 1964); died Long Beach, California 1 May 1996.

## Thought for the day faith & reason

The difficulties of religious broadcasting stem less from the presenters than from the gap between them and their audience, argues Andrew Brown.

The problem with *Thought for the Day* is not that it seems to turn its presenters' brains to mayonnaise but that it has the same effect on listeners. I have often tried to listen to it, but even when I succeed I just end up shouting "You smarmy git" at the bedside radio. More often, one's attention just dissolves and the presenter might as well be talking about the mating habits of tuna for all the impression he makes. Despite the great rush of opinion about the programme in the last week, no one seems to remember anything that was ever said on it.

This makes the subject a gift for columnists. There are no vulgar facts to intrude, and, since no one can remember anything ever said on the programme, it is possible to use the sacking of seven presenters as proof of any conspiracy theory you like: that the BBC is in the hands of atheists, scientologists, *opus deists* or incompetents. I can't myself see any pattern in it at all, except a certain boredom with people who have been doing it for years. The Venerable George Austin is a nice man and a good joke; sacking him makes no theological statement. Father Oliver McTernan, whose opinions are opposed to George's on almost any subject conceivable, has been sacked at the same time.

It would appear that the real difficulty for the producers is that the pool of religious talent in Britain is pretty shallow. Even journalists on daily newspapers have now been approached to contribute to *Thought for the Day*. If preaching were wanted, the general standard is pretty ghastly, and anyone who edits a column like this will know all too painfully how dreadful are most of the submissions received. Actually the problem is more subtle than that. Most priests and even theologians are educated people doing jobs they think worthwhile that bring them into contact with a huge range of human experience. They have a great deal to say and can express themselves well – so long as they are not asked to exhibit these gifts in public. The private letters that I get are almost without exception thoughtful, cogent and enjoyable. The stuff meant for public consumption is not.

Perhaps the problem is the time slot. Presumably, for a Christian broadcaster, the model Thinker would be

Jesus: young, charismatic, impeccably orthodox – but above all a master of the pithy parable. In so far as the gospels record the sayings of Jesus, they are full of wonderfully broadcastable chunks, which gain hugely from not being explicated too much. But a little mathematics will show that even Jesus could not rescue *Thought for the Day* for very long. I do not know how many parables there are in the Gospels, but the figure must be less than a hundred. That would last the producers less than four months. There must be a limit to what can be said in a worthwhile and memorable way in a couple of minutes.

Another difficulty is the demand for topicality. This is bad enough when there is no news to stir the imagination. It is a thousand times worse on those mercifully rare occasions when a religious response seems called for, even by the irreligious. Like the Dunblane massacre. It seems to me that there are two possible religious responses to any sudden eruption of evil into the world. One is silence, reverent, attentive, and prolonged. The other was produced by a Saudi Minister of the Interior some years ago when a sudden stampede during the Haj pilgrimage crushed hundreds of pilgrims to death. "It was the will of God," he said, and closed the subject. Neither response would sit well on the *Today* programme.

The second, Saudi, reaction contains the germ of quite an interesting meditation on why Christianity should be superior to Islam. An orthodox Christian must be just as committed to the view that an omnipotent God in some sense wills everything that happens. But the Christian worldview has at least the potential for tragedy: an awareness that there is something stubborn and valuable in human beings to which submission to the will of God does not come easily, and perhaps not even naturally.

Already, I hear listeners yawning. The natural form for radio is a story, which is why the best radio preachers are fundamentalists. By far the liveliest Christian radio is the most reprehensible: no one ever came away from Jimmy Swaggart bored. The only other people with as much story-telling in their culture are rabbis such as Lionel Blue – and all everyone remembers about him is that he told stories about food.

### Church appointments

Canon John Garton, Vicar, Cuddesdon and Principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon, diocese of Oxford, to be Suffragan Bishop of Plymouth, diocese Exeter, succeeding the Right Rev Richard Hawkins, Suffragan Bishop of Crediton, same diocese. The Ven John Packer, Archdeacon of West Cumberland, diocese of Carlisle, to be Suffragan Bishop of Warrington, diocese Liverpool,

succeeding the Right Rev Michael Henshall, who retires in October. Canon Anthony Fridells, Rector of Amersham with Coleball, diocese of Oxford, to be Suffragan Bishop of Warwick, diocese Coventry, succeeding the Right Rev Clive Handford, Bishop designate of Cyprus and the Gulf. Canon Trevor McCabe, Vicar, Marnock with St Anthony-in-Menage and St Martin-in-Menage (Truro), to be Archdeacon of Cornwall, same diocese.



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## PROFILE: Joanna Lumley

## From actress to national institution

The naming of an Oxford fellowship after her is an apt tribute to the absolutely fabulous British heart-throb, says Liz Hunt

There are two blondes who hold a special place in the hearts of thirty-something British men. One is Alexandra Bastedo, the perfectly-coiffed, perfectly enigmatic star of the late Sixties television series *The Champions*. She played a woman for whom the word allure was invented, and whose superhuman powers had been conferred upon her by Tibetan monks.

The other was Joanna Lumley, the high-kicking, sexy yet pragmatic Purdy of *The New Avengers*. A woman whose unique "wash and go" hairstyle launched a thousand look-alikes in the mid-1970s, and whose special powers were due entirely, one felt, to hours spent on the lacrosse field.

Exposure during their formative years to these television ideals of womanhood was crucial to the sexual development of a generation of men. "You have no idea," says a fan, dreamy-eyed with nostalgia. "They were your first encounter with truly glamorous older women. Alexandra pierced your subconscious in a way you didn't understand at the time because you were too young. Then came Joanna, just when you were beginning to understand it all..."

Perhaps that is why Joanna, 50, who this week had a fellowship christened after her at Oxford University, is the blonde who now occupies pride of place in the thirty-something male psyche. They were just discovering sex when they discovered Purdy, with

her pudding-basin haircut and stockings and suspenders. In truth, there was never any contest. Alexandra Bastedo, also 50, was always a little bit too exotic, and certainly too humourless for real appreciation from British men. "She was a woman to be put on a pedestal. Joanna you always knew would get the joke," says another long-term fan.

Ms Bastedo, it is true, has fostered a lower profile in the years since her small-screen stardom, and this has not been help-

ful. Joanna Lumley has grown older with her fans, sharing her successes and failures, and her opinions with them in a very public way. And then, at an age when some actresses are hitting the bottle in despair, she has blossomed as a major comic talent and created a national institution in Patsy, the chain-smoking, coke-sniffing, permanently sozzled super-bitch, the mother-of-all parodies, in *Absolutely Fabulous*. Patsy is up there in the sit-com hall of fame along with Basil Fawlty, Reginald Perrin, and Victor Meldrew.

They are, of course, all men. Successful funny women are rare, and Lumley's persona of sex-bomb-with-a-sense-of-humour has been her ace. From ambitious young photographic model in the Sixties to fledgling actress - she was Ken Barlow's upper-class girlfriend for a time in *Coronation Street* - via Bond girl status in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, the *Avengers*, and the dreadful *Sapphire and Steel*, she played it straight. But the humour was there, lurking beneath the glam surface, as if at any moment she would crack up, with the laughter directed at herself more than any other individual.

It is not only men who regard her with affection. She is popular with women, too, and perhaps it is women who have the greater debt to La Lumley. Over the years her sharp intelligence, her independence - she was a frowned-upon single mother in



Joanna Lumley: she shows it is possible to be all things to all men. Graham Whitty

says one jaded connoisseur of both intellect and beauty. But was she interesting, what did she have to say? "Some women are beautiful, most are not. She was," is his final word on the matter.

She is that and more, summed up by some seminal Lumley milestones. She came top of a panel of celebrities asked to sit the public schools Common Entrance exam by a newspaper, scoring just 2 per cent less than AJP Taylor in the history paper; then there was a sponsored strip before a bemused Terry Wogan on *Children in Need* in the Eighties; she was a columnist on the *Times*, and a member of the Booker Prize panel in 1984. And since 1980 she has tried hard to honour a commitment she made to do at least one straight stage-play every year, including *Hedda Gabler*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and most recently Somerset Maugham's *The Letter*.

Joanna Lumley's dedication to animal and environmental causes is renowned. In 1994 she emerged in tears from a film on the export of live animals for slaughter, and earlier this year she made headlines again when she took a piglet to Parliament as a member of a delegation from Compassion in World Farming. When the oil tanker the *Sea Empress* foundered at Milford Haven in

February, Ms Lumley sent a personal letter of protest to the Prime Minister.

It actions such as these that have prompted the Friends Provident Financial Group to sponsor a research fellowship at Green College, Oxford, in Joanna Lumley's name. The company specialises in ethical investments, and the fellowship is for post-graduate research into environmental or wildlife issues, particularly in Africa. In PR terms it is an excellent move - the combination of Patsy and Oxford has proved irresistible to journalists. But there is a serious side; Ms Lumley has served on the Reference Committee of Friends Provident for six years, and the fellowship marks her stepping down.

With Patsy and Ab Fab effectively laid to rest - a last special is planned for the autumn - the Green College fellowship would be a fitting epitaph to an extraordinary career. Ms Lumley says she would be happy for it to end, as she wants to spend time with her husband, the opera conductor Stephen Barlow. "I am quite looking forward to not being up there, and if necessary I shall construct my own dismounting process," she has said. But she has also said that "I can't stop taking an interest in the next thing..." Roll on the next thing.

## Let's face it, no one looks good in lime-green

Tamsin Blanchard knows why we wear unflattering colours

The tyranny of the fashion designer has struck again. With a flick of their marker pens, they have transformed quite sane women and men into looking like the contents of a packet of Opal Fruits. The sweets might be mouthwatering, but bright orange and lime-green clothes were made to make your eyes water and put your teeth on edge. And yet, these are the colours of the summer of '96. If you haven't already bought anything in what fashion commentators describe as shades of citrus, chances are, by the end of the summer, you will have succumbed - either out of a temptation to look fashionable and modern, or desperation that there is nothing else available.

The last time the British high street saw so much vivid colour was in the early Eighties when there was a fad for day-glo yellow and fluorescent pink.

Soon after that shocking outbreak - no wonder people started wearing sunglasses after dark - the shops were swamped with serious black, which was relieved by neutral shades of beige towards the end of the decade. Fashion moves in cycles, and the backlash against bland colours has kicked in. But don't be fooled. While you may think that the buyers and designers of the high-street stores are working with you in mind, there are very few people of pasty, northern European complexions who can get away with wearing colours that are best left in the fruit bowl.

So how did this acid explosion happen? And who allowed it to happen? You cannot blame the innocent consumer (these colours do not differentiate between the sexes) for presuming that they should be wearing lime-green and orange when the shops are full of it. The responsibility lies with fashion forecasting agencies, such as Design Intelligence in London.

Kevan Tomlin, head of womenswear, is one of a team who, twice a year, meets with the International Colour Board and the British Colour Board to pull information together that will decide the colour palette

we will be wearing two years hence. The information is then published for fabric manufacturers who set the dye works in motion. In turn, the international designers make up the fabrics and show their designs to the buyers and fashion press a season before they will be on sale to the fashion elite. After that, the high-street chains join the merry-go-round. For the past few months fashion pages have been singing the praises of citrus fruit tones and the retailers have been rubbing their hands, waiting for the tills to ring.

So it was two years ago that Design Intelligence helped determine that orange and lime would be the colours for this summer. Whether or not the colour will suit anyone does not appear to have come into consideration. While Mr Tomlin agrees that citrus colours do not suit many people, he thinks that is a minor irrelevance. The clothes-buying public is credited with little intelligence and the mentality of a flock of sheep: once one person wears it, confidence will grow and everyone else will follow.

Colour therapists are worried, however. They do not have the cynicism of the fashion and textile industries. The spread of lime-green could have a serious effect on the well-being of the population. According to one therapist, orange is bad for the aura, giving off negativity and fear. And while grass-green and sage-green are life enhancing, lime-green is thoroughly unhealthy for those who wear it and those who have to look at it.

The only way to buck the trend is to do yourself, and everyone else a favour, and don't buy it. There are alternatives - how about good old-fashioned black, white, and navy, or lilac or aqua blue? All are widely available, covering on the rails behind the dazle of lime and orange. But be resolute and prepare for next summer. The cogs are already in motion and the fruit bowl has been raided once again. The colour to run from in the summer of 1997? Grapefruit.



She came top of a celebrity panel asked to sit the Common Entrance exam, scoring just 2 per cent less than AJP Taylor in the history paper

her pudding-basin haircut and stockings and suspenders.

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ful. Joanna Lumley has grown older with her fans, sharing her successes and failures, and her opinions with them in a very public way. And then, at an age when some actresses are hitting the bottle in despair, she has blossomed as a major comic talent and created a national institution in Patsy, the chain-smoking, coke-sniffing, permanently sozzled super-bitch, the mother-of-all parodies, in *Absolutely Fabulous*. Patsy is up there in the sit-com hall of fame along with Basil Fawlty, Reginald Perrin, and Victor Meldrew.

They are, of course, all men. Successful funny women are rare, and Lumley's persona of sex-bomb-with-a-sense-of-humour has been her ace. From ambitious young photographic model in the Sixties to fledgling actress - she was Ken Barlow's upper-class girlfriend for a time in *Coronation Street* - via Bond girl status in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, the *Avengers*, and the dreadful *Sapphire and Steel*, she played it straight. But the humour was there, lurking beneath the glam surface, as if at any moment she would crack up, with the laughter directed at herself more than any other individual.

## America paralyses Lebanon's anger

To stifle UN outrage after the Qana massacre threatens a wounded people, says Anthony Parsons

Whatever the outcome of the present row at the United Nations in New York about the Israeli bombing of Qana, the Middle East peace process is unlikely to be affected. Its future will depend on forces outside the UN: the result of forthcoming Israeli elections and progress or otherwise in Palestinian/Israeli and Syrian/Israeli negotiations.

Today's crisis is about the Lebanon, an intrinsically unaggressive country, which has suffered far heavier civilian casualties as a consequence of the Arab-Israeli dispute than any other state in the region. I confess that I have only the slimmest expectation that the United States, with its veto power and identification with Israel, will permit the Security Council to take positive action which could be helpful to the people of Lebanon; indeed, the reverse is now on the cards if Unifil is forced by Israeli pressure to withdraw from Lebanon.

For years, UN Security Council discussion of the Arab-Israeli dispute has tended toward one of two results - either a resolution so innocuous as to be meaningless, or an American veto of anything critical of Israel. The American and Israeli aversion to Security Council involvement has converged, the public rationale since 1991 being that with the parties now in direct negotiation, outside interference must be avoided.

On the whole, this policy has carried the day. With the end of the Cold War, the relegation of Russia to spectator status and Saddam Hussein's exposure of the Arab need for American power, Arab governments have largely abandoned recourse to the Council. The Americans have in fact only had to cast one veto since 1990.

In the "bad old days" before the New World Order, Lebanese governments frequently brought to the Council Israeli attacks on or invasion of their territory, running into 10 American vetoes between 1982 and 1988.



Removing the UN from places such as Qana would provide even less civilian support

The present Lebanese government has been more circumspect.

Even in the face of the ferocity of the Israeli retaliation against Hizbollah last month, the Arab world held its hand for several days while 10 per cent of the population of Lebanon were driven from their homes, ports were closed, electricity installations near Beirut were bombed, the coast road subjected to shelling and civilian casualties mounted. It was only after more than 100 civilians were killed by Israeli artillery fire in the UN base at Qana that the Security Council was mobilised. It is a measure of current American power that an Arab draft resolution condemning Israel and calling for withdrawal from the "security zone" secured only four votes (five less than the minimum of nine out of 15 required for adoption, provided a veto is not exercised) and the eventual

resolution, adopted unanimously on 18 April, made no mention of Israel and avoided any suggestion of blame for what had happened at Qana and elsewhere.

This almost inaudible international bleat may have been preferable at the time to a bad-tempered debate culminating in an American veto, but it cannot have appeased the outrage felt by Lebanese of all sectarian and religious persuasion as Israeli artillery, aircraft and gunboats continued to pound away.

A General Assembly debate provided an opportunity for Arab delegations, including the president of Lebanon, to let off steam but, when the ceasefire came into effect on 26 April, it looked as though the curtain had fallen on the insignificant play in New York.

The report on Qana by the UN

General Franklin van Kappen and its public circulation to Security Council members by the Secretary General has brought the curtain back up with a jerk, revealing a major diplomatic row. The report is meticulously drafted, giving full space to the Israeli point of view. However, van Kappen's finding is that "while the possibility cannot be ruled out completely, it is unlikely that the shelling of the United Nations compound was the result of gross technical and/or procedural errors". In his covering note, the Secretary General, while setting out the Israeli view - operational mistakes and technical failures compounded by chance - effectively endorses van Kappen's findings.

According to reports, the Israelis have dismissed the report as "absurd" and are talking of the necessity for Unifil to be withdrawn. The

Americans are said to have exploded with rage at the Secretary General. Arab delegates are talking of a resolution condemning Israel and demanding compensation. The rest of the Council, including Britain, seem to be keeping their heads below the parapet, although the British ambassador was reported as saying that the report must be taken seriously.

The Americans will try hard to bury the report, with the Council at most "taking note" of it. It remains to be seen whether they can prevail on the Arabs to comply. If not, and there is a resolution critical of Israel, it will be vetoed if, which is not certain, it secures nine votes: much will depend on the four Western members, including Britain, which will come under strong, conflicting pressures.

American readiness to paralyse the Security Council on Israel's behalf has long been taken for granted in New York, but still excites resentment: Washington is unlikely to be the flavour of the month either in the UN or the Middle East as a result of this crisis. Conversely, the fact that the Secretary General and his staff have been prepared to stand up and be counted in public will do the UN as an institution a power of good in a large number of states.

It will be tragic if the ordinary people of south Lebanon have to suffer further as a consequence of this diplomatic storm. Without Israeli co-operation, Unifil could not remain in the south and the Americans can easily veto the renewal of its mandate. Unifil has never been able to carry out its full functions, but, for 18 years, it has provided some protection for local inhabitants. If Unifil leaves, they will be in greater danger than before from both sides. This consideration should surely weigh with the policy makers.

Sur Anthony Parsons was UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations between 1979 and 1982.

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# Lloyd's close to final deal with names

PETER RODGERS  
Business Editor

The Lloyd's insurance market yesterday appeared to be well on the way to clinching a deal with its aggrieved members after confirming the details of a £1.2bn improvement in its settlement offer.

Although some members said the new proposals did not go far enough, leaders of the main action groups fighting Lloyd's made clear they thought it would probably be enough to persuade members to vote in favour during the summer. But many still plan to press for more help for the hardest hit.

David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, said the settlement was the only practicable route forward.

## The final bill for Names

	BEFORE IMPROVEMENT	AFTER IMPROVEMENT
Names owe:		
£2.0bn	uncalled losses	£2.0bn
£2.0bn	losses called but unpaid	£2.0bn
£1.9bn	funding for Equitas	£1.0bn
	£5.9bn	£5.0bn
Lloyd's settlement offer:	£2.8bn	£3.1bn
Final debt	£3.1bn	£1.9bn

ward. "By making these changes we believe some of the less palatable areas have been made more acceptable to members and a lot of people will find their situation greatly improved."

Michael Deeny, chairman of the largest action group, Gooda Walker, and of the litigating Names Association Working Party, said: "This is nothing like enough. We do not regard this

as final and we are keeping on with our campaign."

Alan Porter, chairman of the Devonshire Names' Action Group, said the £300m increase in the settlement fund was "meagre and disappointing" and he called for further aid for ruined names. He also warned that "Lloyd's troubles over fraud and breaking of regulations in the US may cause the collapse of the settlement."

In California, a court cleared the way for renewed legal actions by the state against the market, which are expected to have the backing of the US Securities and Exchange Commission. But in a separate Tennessee decision Lloyd's reached an agreement that allows it to continue negotiations with names.

The market's offer to names has been raised by £300m to £3.1bn as a result of extra contributions of £100m from brokers, an agreement by auditors to pay more than £100m, an increase in the proceeds from selling and mortgaging Lloyd's property and other contributions from central resources.

As revealed earlier this week, Lloyd's has also reduced the cost to names of setting up the Equitas reinsurance vehicle that is to take over their old liabilities from £1.9bn to £1bn.

In a letter from Mr Rowland, the chairman, Lloyd's said there would be more help for the "honourables" - names on loss-making syndicates who have paid up - and extra assistance for names who cannot pay at all.

An important part of the settlement is a reduction in the cap set on names' future liability for further losses. In the earlier proposal, 9,000 names were to be capped at £100,000 maximum. Now all but 2,000 of these will be capped at lower levels.

Those who remain members are to have their cap reduced to zero. Those who have paid but left will see it reduced to £50,000. And for those who cannot pay and who have very large losses, there will also be a reduction in the £100,000 cap.

Lloyd's said the number of names who will receive cash refunds as a result of the settlement has doubled from 5,000 to 10,000. These are people who have paid their debts in full.

## Sweetly does it at British Energy

MICHAEL HARRISON

The Government has attempted to sweeten the controversial sale of British Energy by writing down the value of its nuclear power stations by £3bn and halving the value of the environmental liabilities it will take into the private sector.

The moves are designed to help ease what promises to be a more problematic and controversial sell-off than even the railtrack flotation.

British Energy's fixed assets were shown as £8.2bn in its 1995 accounts. But last night, in reply to written parliamentary questions, the President of the Board of Trade Ian Lang disclosed these had been written down to £5bn.

At the same time the Government has adopted a bigger discount rate for calculating the nuclear liabilities British Energy will carry with it for decommissioning stations and reprocessing spent fuel.

This has resulted in the liabilities being shown as £3.7bn compared with a previous figure of £7.6bn.

The sale of British Energy, which owns five advanced gas cooled reactors in England and Wales, two AGRs in Scotland and the Sizewell B pressurised water reactor, is expected to raise about £2.6bn.

This is the same as Sizewell B cost to build and is about half the value of its fixed assets. In his written answer Mr Lang said the write-down of the assets was a technical matter.

"No cash changes hands as a result of such a write-down. It will have no effect on the cash generated by the stations nor will it reduce the proceeds of sale (the company is expected to be valued by investors on the basis of its dividends and cash flow)."

On this basis, the broking arm of BZW, which is acting as the Government's adviser on the sale, believes British Energy will be worth £2.6bn. But this valuation assumes very high usage of all eight nuclear plants. Even fairly minor reductions in their output could have marked impact on their revenue earning capacity and hence British Energy's value.

## Golden hello lures oil man to British Gas

MICHAEL HARRISON

British Gas yesterday courted controversy by bringing in a new chief executive to run its transportation arm, TransCo, with the lure of a £100,000 "golden hello".

David Varney, a senior executive with the oil company Shell, will take up the post in June with a salary of £385,000 in addition to signing-on fee. The appointment pushes Philip Rogerson, who had been widely tipped for the TransCo job, upstairs into the role of deputy chairman and increased speculation about his long-term future with British Gas.

British Gas also announced that Roy Gardner, brought in from GEC Marconi 18 months ago, will become chief executive of British Gas Energy, its trading and supply arm, with immediate effect.

The appointments virtually complete the shake-up at the top of British Gas under chairman Richard Giordano in readiness for the planned merger of TransCo and British Gas Energy in spring 1997.

A spokeswoman defended the signing on fee for Mr Varney, saying it was compensation for reduced share options

and pension entitlements as a result of leaving Shell.

His salary, she added, was the market rate required to attract a senior Shell executive. "There are plenty of chief executives of smaller companies with less demanding jobs who are paid more," she added.

Mr Varney was previously director of Shell International Petroleum Company, responsible for managing its European downstream oil business. From 1991 to 1995 he was managing director of Shell UK's downstream oil business and during the mid 1980s ran a number of Shell operating companies in the Far East and Australasia.

His appointment to TransCo comes just three days before the gas industry regulator, Clare Spottiswoode, unveils tough new price controls on the business, expected to trim at least £300m off British Gas's revenues and place further strain on its ability to maintain dividends.

Despite Mr Varney's appointment, Mr Rogerson will continue to lead TransCo's negotiations with Ofgas over the new pricing formula. He will also be the board director responsible for carrying through the demerger project.

British Gas maintained that



Shake up complete: David Varney (left) will run British Gas's TransCo arm, while Roy Gardner becomes chief executive of British Gas Energy



even after the demerger was complete he would have an important task to perform handling regulatory matters. But industry observers questioned what long-term role Mr

Rogerson could perform. "He hasn't got the job everyone expected him to get and although he may not be too distraught at that it is difficult to see what he does once demerger is complete," said one source.

Mr Gardner, who received a £200,000 golden hello when he joined in November 1994, is on a salary of £320,000 but has not received a pay rise for getting

the chief executive's job at British Gas Energy.

His main task there will be to renegotiate the £40m take-or-pay contracts with North Sea oil companies.

Increased competition and falling prices have left British gas without customers for much of the gas, creating huge potential liabilities.

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## NM Rothschild teams up with ABN Amro

JOHN EISENHAMMER  
Financial Editor

NM Rothschild yesterday merged its equity capital markets business worldwide with ABN Amro, the Dutch bank, in a move it hopes will dispel doubts about the British merchant bank's ability to remain independent.

The joint venture will give Rothschild the international equity distribution it has lacked ever since the end of its special relationship with the broker Smith New Court, which was bought last year by Merrill Lynch.

ABN Amro, which owns Hoare Govett in London, has long sought to acquire greater advisory strength in the City. It tried to buy Barings early last year, but was beaten by its Dutch business rival, ING.

After a lengthy pause following the spectacular consolidation in City investment banking last year, when several British houses fell to big-balance-sheet foreign predators, yesterday's deal retains the spotlight on to the remaining independents such as Lazards,

Schroders and Cazenove.

The joint venture, which will be run as a single business on a global basis, will comprise about 50 people dedicated to equity capital markets. It excludes UK domestic business. The merged entity will draw on Hoare Govett's sales, trading and research, but its corporate broking side will be entirely left out.

"This is an elegant and sensible solution between two major groups," said Anthony Alt, Rothschild's chief executive. "It is totally consistent with maintaining our independence while leveraging off our skills in origination."

The deal came as Rothschild has been going through a rocky patch, suffering three high level departures in a matter of weeks. The latest to leave was John Bishop, a managing director at Rothschild and its most senior executive in charge of trading. Speculation continues that more senior defections are impending, pointing to unease within the bank at a perceived lack of direction.

Stating that he expected the announcement to stem the crit-

icism, Mr Alt took a defiant stance against the recent leavers and other rumoured departures. "Good luck to them, they can go and be buried in some large investment bank."

Equity capital markets is the vital stone in the arch linking a bank's corporate advisory business and the equity sales and research side. It is responsible for the pricing, bookbuilding and distribution of share offerings.

"The international corporate finance, advisory and sector skills of Rothschild complement the global research, sales and trading capabilities of ABN Amro," said Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman.

Bernie Myers, a Rothschild managing director, said the deal gives the bank stronger international distribution than it had with Smith New Court. "This is not a replacement. It is a major, positive, quantum leap," he said.

About 20 people from Rothschild will move to ABN Amro's office at Broadgate, in the City, where ABN Amro Rothschild will be headquartered.

Comment, page 19

## Railtrack sale looks set for top price

PETER RODGERS  
Business Editor

Railtrack looks likely to be sold for a price at the top of the government's £1.75bn to £1.95bn range, after heavy interest by City institutions.

Investors do not appear to have been deterred by the renewed bad publicity about the company in recent days, including advice from Lloyds Bank and NatWest to their private clients that they do not regard Railtrack as a suitable long-term investment.

Institutions are believed to have made indicative offers that comfortably oversubscribe

their share of the privatisation, and substantial numbers of applications have already been received from private investors, well ahead of the close next Wednesday at noon.

The indications are that the government will have no difficulty selling the shares at the top of the 350p to 390p range announced 10 days ago for international investing institutions. Private investors pay 10p a share less.

The prices on offer from professional investors will not be confirmed until next Friday afternoon when the international tender offer closes.

The present stage is a book-

building exercise during which institutions tell SBC Warburg, the global co-ordinator, how much they expect to buy and at what price.

The institutions are not committed to their offers until the close and are theoretically entitled to withdraw altogether. But the level of interest at this stage is usually regarded as useful pointer to the outcome. The offers have come from a wide spread of institutions in the UK and overseas.

The level of private applications also looks on track for an oversubscription of the minimum of 30 per cent of the shares earmarked for retail buyers. It

now looks highly likely that the retail proportion will be raised to 40 per cent or more.

However, it emerged that Lloyds Bank had sent a letter to in-house investment managers warning that shares offered in the flotation may not be appropriate for longer term or more cautious private investors. "We have said that Railtrack may not be the most appropriate investment for these type of investors," a spokeswoman confirmed. NatWest has already issued a similar warning to its private clients about the flotation.

Brian Wilson, Labour's spokesman on rail, said the

flotation's credibility had been dented by Lloyds' warning.

Meanwhile, Railtrack's bankers, BZW, a subsidiary of Barclays, have had difficulty syndicating a £2.35bn loan from a core syndicate to a wider group of banks.

The loan is underwritten and Railtrack will receive the money whatever happens. But BZW's attempt to spread the risk around more widely than the 20 banks so far involved has proved problematic.

Railtrack sources dismissed claims that the banks were going cold on the company because of the political risk of what a Labour government would do.

## Four freight terminals closed in sell-off move

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR  
Transport Correspondent

Four rail freight terminals have been closed by Railfreight Distribution, BR's main remaining rail freight company, in a bid to rationalise the company in preparation for privatisation.

Four customers of the Connexrail service, which uses high volume wagons mainly for

transport to and from ports, have been given a month's notice that they will no longer be served by trains.

The decision to cut some services is part of a widespread restructuring in the company which will result in redundancies "among all grades" of staff, according to a letter leaked to the Independent.

The move by Railfreight appears to fly in the face of

Government policy to get more freight off roads and on to rail but RfD argues that it was no longer to serve these depots. A spokesman for the company said that the four terminals - at Ely, Gidea Park, Barking and Blackburn - were each used for only one or two wagons per week and this was not economic. He denied that the move had anything to do with privatisation: "We carry out these reviews

every six months." He added that RfD was currently attracting new business on several routes through the Channel Tunnel.

However, a letter to the four customers from Bert Blissett, the general manager of RfD Connexrail makes it clear that the move has been instigated as a result of privatisation. The letter begins: "The intention of RfD in the current financial year, a report commissioned from Mercer Management Consulting in this context is still being considered by the Government. Meanwhile, we are required to restructure the business with the objective of making it viable in the long-term."

Mr Blissett says that he may reconsider but only if there were five loaded wagons per trip. The letter says that recent

performance has been "poorer than had been expected", culminating in losses of £60m for 1995/6. These are similar to the losses in 1994/5 and arise partly because of its investment in services through the Channel Tunnel which are only now starting to bear fruit. However, it is still severely loss-making and most industry observers doubt whether it can be sold during the current financial year.

One of the customers affected by the decision said he would be negotiating with RfD: "I am furious that they have done this without prior warning or discussion with us. It's a terribly off-handed way to work."

Earlier this week, it was announced that a management buy-out team was the preferred bidder for Freightliner, BR's other remaining freight company.

STOCK MARKETS						
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1995 High	1996 Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	3794.40	+26.10	+0.7	3852.10	3639.50	3.95
FTSE 250	4512.80	+7.40	+0.2	4568.60	4015.30	3.31
FTSE 350	1903.10	+10.90	+0.6	1945.40	1816.60	3.81
FT Small Cap	2224.35	+4.05	+0.2	2232.30	1954.08	2.92
FT All Share	1888.05	+10.30	+0.5	1924.17	1791.95	3.74
New York	5512.44	+39.30	+0.7	5689.74	3832.08	2.21
Tokyo	21420.12	+8.24	+0.0	22282.05	19734.70	0.72
Hong Kong	10587.73	+24.73	+0.2	11594.99	10264.67	3.41
Frankfurt	2468.78	-0.60	-0.0	2550.18	2234.86	1.90

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES						
Short sterling			UK medium gilt		US long bond	
Index	1 Month	1 Year	Index	1 Year	Index	1 Year
UK	6.00	6.38	8.84	8.18	8.14	8.22
US	5.31	5.84	6.89	6.88	6.82	6.99
Japan	0.50	1.19	2.47	2.55	-	-
Germany	3.31	3.31	6.45	6.91	7.19	-

# CURRENCIES

The figure consists of three line graphs side-by-side, each representing a different currency index. The vertical axis for all three graphs ranges from 0 to 1.5 in increments of 0.1. The horizontal axis represents time, with major ticks for the years 1980, 1985, and 1990. The first graph, labeled 'E/£', shows a steady increase from approximately 0.6 in 1980 to 1.0 in 1990. The second graph, labeled 'E/DM', shows a similar upward trend, starting around 0.6 and reaching 1.0 by 1990. The third graph, labeled 'E/¥', shows a more volatile but generally increasing trend, starting around 0.6 and ending near 1.0 in 1990.

Source: Bank of England and US Federal Reserve, 1990 Year

Pound				Dollar			
	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago		Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
\$ (London)	1.5226	-0.086	1.5724	£ (London)	0.6569	-0.27	0.6369
\$ (NY)	1.5226	+0.50c	1.5685	£ (NY)	0.6569	-0.22	0.6375
DM (London)	2.3217	+1.14c	2.2895	DM (London)	1.5249	+0.81c	1.4433
¥ (London)	160.401	+10.850	138.325	¥ (London)	105.330	+10.60c	88.70
£ Index	84.7	+0.3	84.7	¥ Index	96.4	+0.2	89.2

## OTHER INDICATORS

	Yesterday	Day's High	Year Ago		Index	Lastest Trd Price	Most Prev
Oil Brent \$	19.97	-0.06	18.32	FFM	151.5	+2.70c	147.5
Gold \$	392.30	-0.5	389.50	DM	107.4	+2.00c	105.3
Gold £	247.72	-0.16	243.80	Basis			
				Europe			

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### IN THE WEEKEND MONEY SECTION

- Long-term care: State partnership plan goes ahead p20
- Investment: Living with a Labour government p21
- Fear of Finance: The Railtrack sale timetable p22





With the August deadline looming for proving to the Department of Trade and Industry that Lloyd's is solvent and can continue trading, there is not much time left.

## No alternative to accepting the improved offer

It is hard to believe that the first Lloyd's offer to its aggrieved names three years ago was a miserable £900m. In the last week alone, the market has managed to magic out of the hat the same amount simply by reducing the funding requirements of the Equitas reinsurance vehicle from £1.9bn to £1.1bn, a saving of £800m. But then all negotiations involve brinkmanship. Lloyd's must have seen the possibility much earlier this year of reducing the cost of Equitas to names, but held the card back to the last minute, when it would have the maximum psychological effect.

The names' action groups, for their part, have also played it pretty rough, and close to the brink at times. So have the auditors, who grudgingly agreed in the late stages of the negotiations to pay £100m or more into the settlement – a lot less than they ought to contribute, given their central role, but progress all the same.

As ever with Lloyd's, nothing is simple. The settlement offer itself has been raised by only £300m to £3.1bn. The other £900m is technically not part of Lloyd's offer to the names but a reduction in what they have to shell out to Equitas. But it comes to the same thing in the end – the overall package is £1.1bn better than it was when the outline settlement was published in February.

Having delivered such a surprise with the £900m, Lloyd's risks encouraging the most militant members to press on with their campaign in the hope that there is another chunk of money up another baggy sleeve some-

where. However, this time Lloyd's is probably serious when it says there is no more available. With the August deadline looming for proving to the Department of Trade and Industry that the market is solvent and can continue trading, there is not much time left.

The main action groups have been drawn deeply into these final rounds of negotiations. Some of their leaders are too closely identified now with the offer to do anything but back it. There are still hundreds of bankrupt names in such deep trouble that the settlement cannot solve their problems. But the chances of majority agreement have not looked better since this whole sorry business started. There is no sensible alternative to accepting it, even if the argument is bound to continue for a couple of months over detail.

### Gas reshuffle solves nothing

The deck chairs have been shuffled yet again on board the good ship British Gas as the rubber dingy is being lowered in readiness to cut adrift the unwanted ballast of those pesky take-or-pay contracts. Judging from the latest batch of board appointments, the black spot is being reserved for Philip Rogerson, the executive director responsible for overseeing the demerger of British Gas.

Not that you would necessarily guess that from yesterday's British Gas statement

which is another masterful example of Economy 7 as applied to the English language. Mr Rogerson, has, we are told, been appointed executive deputy chairman of British Gas and of its proposed successor companies – TransCo International, the bit that will run its pipelines, and British Gas Energy, the bit that will slug it out with the rest of the world in the deregulated domestic market.

Quite what he will spend his time doing is less obvious since the two demerged companies will have their own chief executives (both outsiders) in the shape of Roy Gardner who came from GEC Marconi and David Varney, who has been brought in from Shell to run TransCo.

Another thing you would not gather from the statement because British Gas omitted to mention it, is that the man from Shell has been winched on board with a £100,000 signing on fee to soften the blow of losing some share option and pension entitlements. Perhaps we should not begrudge him his golden hello. TransCo is not going to be a bed of roses, with the gas regulator Clare Spottiswoode in close pursuit. But at least it should be capable of making decent profits.

That is more than can be said for British Gas Energy which will barely make a bean, nor pay a dividend for the foreseeable future while its market is slowly eaten away by nimble competitors.

Given his background Mr Varney ought to know a thing or two about take-or-pay

contracts since his former employer is one of British Gas's biggest creditors. That will not be much help, however, as the £40bn of contracts have been humped into British Gas Energy in an attempt to ring fence TransCo from this thumping great liability. Yesterday's rejigging of the top brass will do nothing to bring a solution to this particular headache any nearer and there is every possibility that Mr Varney's former employers will insist on some more of TransCo's assets being shifted into British Gas Energy to cover off the eventual bill.

### Rothschild deal looks clever

NM Rothschild needed this deal. Three senior defections in a matter of weeks, with more rumoured to be in the offing, had punctured the image of a house that prided itself on being somewhere people do not leave. A steady stream of deals for NMR's corporate financiers poured over some of the cracks, but there was no mistaking the growing unease at the lack of strategic direction, or the pointed questioning about whether the bank really had a healthy, independent future.

By joining up the vital equity capital markets business with the Dutch banking giant, ABN Amro, Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of NMR, hopes not only to have slapped down the sceptics, but also in one

bound to have leapfrogged City rivals like Schroders, which are painstakingly trying to build their own distribution.

This looks like a clever deal. NM Rothschild is a good corporate finance business, strong on privatisation work, but precious little else. The asset management side is a disaster, and venture capital fund. The ability of corporate finance to carry the rest is increasingly hampered in the tough competition for the big international mandates by lack of distribution – made that much worse since the loss of Smith New Court to Merrill Lynch. NatWest offered a joint venture, but Evelyn de Rothschild judged the clearer too threatening for his independent ambitions. ABN Amro is a neat alternative. By leaving out Hoare Govett and the UK domestic side, Rothschild gets even more international clout than with Smith New Court, but at arms length.

ABN Amro, which is desperate to bolster its corporate finance presence in the City, has probably settled for less than it hoped for, but it will do for now. Who knows what it might lead to?

What does this deal hold for the remaining independent City houses? Cazenove, which seems to have suffered an attack of Alzheimer's about its talks with Barings in 1994 (talks, what talks?), must be thinking hard about its future. The jury is still very much out on Schroders' efforts to build its own distribution. While business is thriving, these questions can be put off. But not forever.

## Economic policies under fire from right

DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

The Government came under a dual attack on its economic policies from leading right-wing economists yesterday.

Professor Tim Congdon, a member of the Treasury's panel of "wise persons" and former adviser to Baroness Thatcher, said the much-vaunted "flexibility" of the labour market had weakened Britain's economic performance.

In a separate report, the Institute of Directors said the public finances were in a worse position now than before the tax increases announced in 1993. It added that the Government's future public borrowing predictions were based on over-optimistic forecasts for growth in the economy.

Professor Congdon, in his latest monthly economic review for Lombard Street Research, argues that the shift from full-time jobs to part-time working during the past decade and a half meant the Government had been unable to translate huge improvements in productivity in manufacturing industry into a general strengthening in economic performance.

With growth in output per hour four times as high as it was in the 1970s and amongst the highest in the industrialised world, the productivity miracle in manufacturing has been genuine. But, according to Professor Congdon the gains were achieved "only by heavy reduc-

dancies of skilled and able men".

Full-time jobs in highly productive industries have been replaced by part-time jobs in far less productive areas.

The next government must thoroughly review tax and social security measures that had favoured over full-time work, he writes. "The central weakness of the Conservatives' supply side policies has been the failure to maintain high levels of full-time labour force participation."

The Institute of Directors launched a separate attack in a paper criticising the Government's record on cutting public sector borrowing. "Between the November 1993 and 1995 budgets, the underlying deterioration in the prospects for public finances was larger than the amount of extra revenue raised in the two tax-increasing budgets of 1993," it concludes.

Since future projections for the PSBR are based on unrealistic assumptions about how fast the economy will grow, the Government needs to scale back its spending plans even further, author Stephen Davies argues.

In November 1993, the Government predicted that its current expenditure and revenues would be in balance next financial year. In last November's Budget this had slipped to a shortfall equivalent to 1 per cent of GDP – despite forecasting an extra 1.75 per cent of GDP growth.

## Clampdown on media groups who bend rules



Struggle for control: Virginia Bottomley's Bill will curtail a loophole for broadcasters

MATHEW HORSMAN  
Media Editor

The Government is to clamp down on the controversial "warehousing" schemes used by media companies to circumvent media ownership rules, it was confirmed yesterday.

Proposed legislation to be tabled next week as part of the Broadcasting Bill, the Secretary of State for Heritage, Virginia Bottomley, will give independent regulators greater flexibility in determining and defining "control" of broadcast licences, as well as broader powers to end warehousing and similar rule-dodging schemes.

Warehousing – the placing of shares in deadlocked companies over which no one is deemed to have control – was most recently used by Granada, the media and leisure company, to take a large stake in Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, a technically allowed under the current ownership limits.

Such schemes have been criticised by the Independent Television Commission, the commercial TV watchdog, which lobbied for greater discretion. The ITC was last night reviewing the proposed changes, and had no comment.

The Broadcasting Bill is aimed at deregulating the broadcasting sector, allowing

companies to expand further. Under current rules, companies can own two ITV licences outright, but only up to 20 per cent of a third and up to 5 per cent of any additional franchises.

Earlier this year, DNH confirmed the numerical two-licence limit would be replaced by a total TV audience limit of 15 per cent. Yesterday, it provided further details of how the limits would be calculated.

Once the Bill comes into effect, probably this autumn, minority shareholdings in ITV companies of between 15 per cent and the level deemed to constitute control (probably 49.9 per cent) would attract one-half the audience share of the relevant licence. Anything higher would attract 100 per cent of the audience share.

In the case of other broadcast companies, for instance Channel 5, the audience attribution for minority shareholdings would kick in once the stake reached 20 per cent.

The changes mean that companies will be able to hold an unlimited number of ITV stakes up to 15 per cent. Thereafter, half the audience share of any additional franchise would count toward the overall 15 per cent ceiling, up to the point deemed by the ITC to constitute control.

## Lucas bid expected in next few days

MICHAEL HARRISON

Lucas Industries, the car components and aerospace group, could be on the end of a hostile £2.5bn bid within days, market makers were speculating last night.

Takeover rumours have gathered pace following the group's confirmation that it is in merger talks with the US brakes and diesel engine group Varity.

Dealers believe these talks will fail and that a rival bid will be tabled. Sutor, being mentioned yesterday include General Motors, the world's biggest car company, TI, Siemens of Germany, and fellow UK automotive component groups GKN and T&N.

Shares in Lucas rose 11p yesterday to 234p valuing the group at £1.95bn. However, dealers were speculating that any bid would have to be pitched at 260p-275p a share putting a price tag of £2.3bn to £2.4bn on the company.

Lucas has been vulnerable to a bid since its chief executive George Simpson confirmed two months ago that he is leaving to take over from Lord Weinstock at GEC.

Mr Simpson is on record as believing that the car components industry will be dominated by a handful of large players and that to survive Lucas would have to grow much bigger.

It considered forging an alliance with the French component supplier Valeo by buying Carlo de Benedetti's 30 per cent stake in the business but rejected the idea in favour of talks with Varity, which owns the diesel engine manufacturer Perkins and is the US's biggest brake manufacturer.

Market report, page 20

## Pirc calls for Shell shareholder action

PATRICK TOOHER

Pirc, the corporate governance consultancy, is urging its clients to vote against Shell's report and accounts at the annual general meeting next Wednesday in protest at the oil company's activities in Nigeria.

"We have serious reservations about Shell's policies in relation to the environment and human rights," said Alan MacDougall, Pirc's joint managing director. "We do not consider that its re-

sponse to shareholder concerns has been adequate to date."

Pirc says that following requests from pension fund clients last autumn it held a series of meetings with Shell about its role in Nigeria. It is particularly concerned about the company's policy towards the Ogoni region of southern Nigeria where many of its oil activities are based.

"The company has had six weeks to respond but so far we have received two letters which

have effectively said nothing," Mr MacDougall continued.

The issue came to a head in November when long-time Shell critic Ken Saro-Wiwa was held along with eight other activists by the Nigerian authorities as Commonwealth leaders assembled for a summit in Auckland, New Zealand.

Shell, which pumps about half of Nigeria's oil, this week gave commitments to clean up spills and resume community action programmes in the Ogoni area.

Shell is also planning to tighten rules governing shareholder entry to annual meeting to deter environmental and human rights activists gaining publicity.

At the moment protesters can gain access by owning just one token share. Shell wants only serious long-term investors to attend and speak at meetings. One suggestion is that individuals should be asked to hold for at least a year. A minimum £1,000 investment is another proposal being Shell touted by Shell.

Several other companies have already been hit by environmental activists as the agn season enters into full swing.

Pirc, whose pension fund and investment management clients control assets worth £100bn, gained publicity last year when it tabled a special resolution at the annual general meeting of British Gas calling for the way executive pay and perks are set to be overhauled. Mr MacDougall said yesterday that utilities would be under fire again this year.

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

## Gilts suffering from double-whammy effect

The first few months of this year have not been kind to the gilt market and there is not much chance that matters will improve with the arrival of spring. The redemption yield on the 15-year benchmark stock has climbed more than half a point since January and is now stuck above 8 per cent. Gilts have been hit by a double-whammy – political risk and inflation fears.

Gilts are caught between the different state of the economic cycle to the east and west of the UK. The prospect of the Bundesbank cutting short-term interest rates in the next few weeks means other European markets have decoupled from the nervous US Treasury market since the early part of the year. One worry troubling investors is the risk that the UK economy is more likely to pick-up, like the US, rather than stay in the doldrums with Germany and France.

Extremely favourable US figures for inflation at the factory gate last month reassured Treasury bond investors yesterday that the Fed would stay its hand. But there are other clear signals that the American economy is recovering strongly from its pause, with an ever-tighter labour market and upward pressure on wages. Further pointers to economic strength are likely to send bond yields up again. They are already at their highest for a year.

The evidence on the UK economy is more mixed, but signals such as rapid monetary growth, a strengthening

consumer sector and rising asset prices have been interpreted in some quarters as early inflation warnings. Even if that is a bit alarmist, growing evidence that the economy is starting to grow a bit faster mean the odds of further base rate cuts have receded. Traders in the futures market are currently betting on there being no fall from the current level of 6 per cent, with base rates rising again by the autumn.

On top of this, the run-up to the general election does not look like being a happy period for the gilt market, for a mixture of reasons. One risk is a pre-election surge in public sector borrowing. Gilts issuance is already

higher than expected a year ago because government tax revenues have been disappointingly low. On past form it is sensible to expect the Government to ease up on control of the public finances even more as election day approaches.

However, an additional concern is how much more a Labour government might want to borrow. The party's plans have so far not been spelt out in detail, although the shadow chancellor Gordon Brown has pledged to be tough on the public finances and retain some sort of inflation target. A new report from investment bank Goldman Sachs estimates that political risk should not add more than half

a point to gilt yields before the election.

However, it cautions that the market has not yet taken this into account. So with both politics and economics conspiring against gilts, investors are in for a further bumpy ride.

### Barbados hotels hit stormy spell

St James Beach Hotels, owner of four upmarket properties in Barbados, has proved a disappointing vehicle for investors hoping to cash in on the boom in the hotels market. The shares have fallen almost in a straight line since hitting a peak of 151p in August last year and now sit at an all-time low after falling 14p in the wake of yesterday's profits warning. At 100p they are 20p below the level at which they were floated two years ago.

St James has revealed that cost overruns, a stock write-down and the tightening of what has proved an insufficiently conservative depreciation policy will savage profits for last year. Instead of the widely expected figure of £3m for the 12 months to last March, the group is now promising "not less than £1.4m", well down even on the £1.92m recorded in 1994-95.

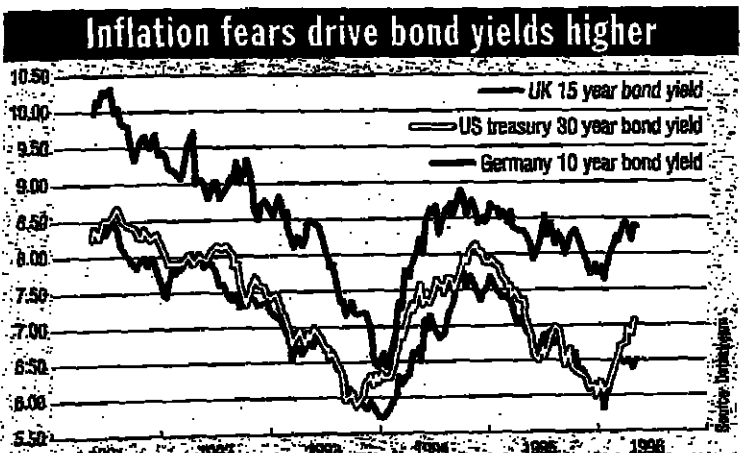
Executive chairman Ray Horney, who with his wife controls around 58 per

cent of the company, is confident that they now have the problems under control, aided by a new finance director and much stricter financial controls. He points out that the underlying picture remains strong. While profits slumped last year, sales were well ahead of budget – outside estimates suggest they could be more than 50 per cent ahead of last year's £10.4m – and occupancy rates are above 90 per cent.

The hope is that St James has anticipated the worst in these figures, but doubts inevitably remain. The group has been spending aggressively to expand and renovate its hotels, but clearly it could not cope with rate of growth and costs have run wild. Of last year's profits shortfall, only £300,000 related to stock and depreciation.

In retrospect, the recent extensive management changes should have rung alarm bells with investors. Added to that, Mr Horney's other business dealings have not always met with huge success. Earlier this year, his Regent Corporation house-building group revealed that it had uncovered "significant errors" in its accounts alongside losses and a boardroom clear-out.

That said, St James controls a fifth of the luxury hotel market in Barbados, an area in which Forte and Lombaro are interested, and claims assets backing of 13.2p a share. It is also planning to raise last year's dividend a fifth to 4.8p. The risks remain, but the brave should hold on.



### IN BRIEF

• Sterling ended at its highest level against the Deutschmark for more than a year, rising by more than a penny to DM2.3224 yesterday. Hopes of further cuts in German interest rates to boost the economy meant the mark was generally weaker. Figures yesterday showed consumer prices in western Germany rose only 0.1 per cent last month and 1.2 per cent in the year to mid-April. The pan-German increase was 0.1 per cent in April, making the year-on-year rise 1.5 per cent. Inflation is not expected to climb above 2 per cent this year.

• "Core" US producer prices – excluding food and energy – rose by a lower-than-expected 0.1 per cent last month. The headline rate of factory-gate inflation edged up to 2.5 per cent. Although the figures were more favourable than expected, analysts think the Federal Reserve will leave US interest rates unchanged for some time – helping the dollar strengthen against the German currency.

• Rodime's US attorneys said there is no prospect of a recent adverse legal decision in the US courts being overturned. Last September the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington DC issued a ruling that resulted in all of Rodime's claims against a company called Quantum being judged invalid. Rodime went to the US Supreme Court in an unrelated case which has now been settled. Rodime's lawyers said that decision means that there is now no prospect of the earlier Quantum verdict being overturned.

• Holders of bonds issued by Barings have issued writs against 17 parties claiming compensation of £100m. The proceedings have been brought against the issuing company Barings Plc (now under administration), its board of directors and advisors, Hoare Govett, BZW and Cazenove. The writs were issued in the High Court on behalf of the Barings 9.25 per cent Perpetual Noteholders Action Group on the grounds that the listing particulars were misleading or failed to contain certain information as a result of which the bondholders have suffered loss.

• Westminster Health Care, the UK's biggest private nursing home group, parted company yesterday with its controversial founding shareholder when the Tenet Healthcare Corporation of the US placed its 42 per cent stake in an £80m deal. The 26.9 million shares were sold in a single block to the company's joint brokers Cazenove and Collins Stewart who sold them on to institutional investors at 288p a share. The sale will have netted a profit of more than £60m for Tenet, which has been dogged by controversy since being heavily fined in the US for billing fraud in 1993. Westminster denied that there had been any pressure from them to sell, although it admitted that it had removed "an easy stick to beat us with".



## DATA BANK

FT-SE 100  
3754.4+26.1

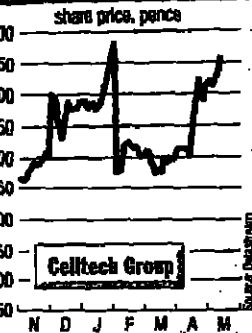
FT-SE 250  
4512.8 +7.4

FT-SE 350  
1903.1+10.9

SEAQ VOLUME  
607.2m shares,  
32,539 bargains

Glits Index  
92.40 +0.36

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT



In heavy trading Lucas Industries, the aerospace and car components group, motored 11p to 234p as rumours of a takeover bid swirled around the stock market.

According to the rumour mill action would occur early next week with GM, the US giant, favourite to strike.

Lucas shares have been heavily traded this week, a classic indication that corporate action is suspected.

But yesterday's speculation prompted the inevitable question following a Friday run - is it a ramp?

So often, as the market winds down for the weekend break, stories of an imminent bid go the rounds. Often the company concerned is already in the bid frame.

United Biscuits is one which has experienced the Friday ramp. Its shares soared in busy trading as stories swirled a predator was about to swoop.

UB's shares were soon back to their old crumbly form as trading continued to deteriorate and the rumoured bidder failed to emerge.

Earlier this week it became known Lucas was engaged in talks with a US group, Varsity. Object was to establish a trading pact. The negotiations could stretch to a full merger although Varsity is too small to mount a bid for Lucas: so the UK group would have to make the running.

In the market, however, the talks were seen as an indication Lucas realises it is too small to prosper on the world stage and needs a partner.

The French Valeo group could be interested although it is unlikely to be in a position to move until the ownership of a 30 per cent shareholding is resolved. At one time Lucas was seen as a possible buyer.

Besides GM, which would have little trouble absorbing



## MARKET REPORT

## DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

Lucas and could regard a takeover as a logical bolt on, the UK groups, GKN and TI Group, are in the frame. T&N, if it could resolve its asbestos difficulties, could also be a partner.

GKN eased 4p to 958p and TI 6p to 546p. T&N was little changed at 175p. Lucas, with a 260p rumoured bid price, has climbed from 172p in January.

The rest of the market was in buoyant form with the FT-SE 100 index going some way towards nullifying the poor start to the month, gaining 26.1 points to 3,754.4.

British Gas was the best performing blue chip, scoring a 9p advance to 228p on the ap-

pointment of its demerger bosses.

Electricities dimmed on the latest Board of Trade U-turn but the English generators, National Power and PowerGen, gained 2p - to 535p and 544p respectively.

Hambros, the merchant bank, shaded 2p to 237p although UBS lifted its takeover price from 271p to 303p.

After its breathtaking arrival Vanguard Media held at 628p with a string of delayed trades going through at 620p. Celltech, the drugs group which caused unease by scrapping its

asthma drug in February, continued its recent heady run, gaining 25p to 653p. It is with-

in 30p of its level before the asthma setback.

Zeneca's upbeat trading statement lifted the shares 11p to 1,377p but Chiroscience, where a £40.3m cash raising exercise is underway, fell 15p to 485p.

FirstBus, on its Glasgow buy, advanced 6p to 174p and Eurotunnel, seemingly on French investment support, managed a 6p gain, to 82.5p.

Superstores continued to rally following the J Sainsbury performance and oils were helped by the Shell display although British Petroleum bucked the trend, off 6p to 563p.

Tallow Oil was unchanged at 90.5p in busy trading on talk of a British Gas strike and Bakyrcheik gained 17p to 350p on gold price optimism.

Eidos fell a further 15p to 808p on worries about delays over its video telephone and SuperscapeVR gave up 7p to

628p on director selling. Video Logic gained another 6p to 94p on its super-fast video chips deal.

Raphael Zorn Hemsley, the stockbroker, put on 5p to 49p following figures and Oriol, the insurance broker, rose 13p to 155p as takeover talks continued.

Cantors, the Sheffield-based furniture retailer, put on 5p to 160p; it is in talks which could lead to a substantial acquisition.

Rodime fell 0.75p to 2.5p. The former computer group is now a litigation play; it has suspended one US action to concentrate on its claim against US group Seagate.

Ask Central, a small restaurant chain, improved 12p to 120p where it sells at more than 60 times last year's earnings.

The company is controlled by the Kaye family which created City Centre Restaurants and earlier built and then sold two restaurant chains.

Expect developments at Emerald Energy, the USM-traded group. It is thought to be seeking to reduce its reliance on the US and negotiating to buy exploration and production facilities in Colombia. A cash raising exercise is likely to accompany any deals. The company came to the market 30 months ago with Peter Winton, former exploration chief at Tricentrol, as managing director. Until now it has concentrated on developing resources in the US. The shares held at 1.75p.

Megalomedia, headed by Maurice Saatchi, has bought nearly 7 per cent of unquoted Cybercat for £250,000. Started as an Internet access cafe based in London nearly two years ago, Cybercat has grown to six operations - in the UK, Paris and Tokyo. Megalomedia held at 89p.

Alcoholic Beverages			Banks, Merchant			Banks, Retail			Breweries, Pubs & Rest			Building/Construction			Building Materials			Chemicals			Electronics			Engineering			Food Manufacturers			Health Care			Index-linked			Shorts			Mediums			Longs			Telecommunications			Rights Issues			Recent Issues			Government Securities			Undated			Support Services			Water			Transport			Property			Media			Life Assurance			Investment Companies			Investment Trusts			International			Household Goods			Distributors			Diversified Industrials			Electricity			Extractive Industries			Engineering Vehicles			Insurance			Oil, Integrated			Oil Exploration			Other Financial			Pharmaceuticals			Printing & Paper			Retailers, Food			Retailers, General			Textiles & Apparel			The Independent Index			Share Price Data			Market leaders: Top 20 volumes			FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour			FT-SE 250 Index hour by hour			FT-SE 350 Index hour by hour			Data Bank			Market Report			Lucas Industries takes off on takeover rumours			DEREK 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Lapointe Inc.	571	621	Western Auto Storage S&S Ser		4232
Larkin Mutual	(72)	621	Western Autos S Way Pk 200 Ser		2000A
M & G Mortgage Bond Acc	120M	1718	Western Auto Bull Acc		3257
M & G Mortgage Income Bond	15.7	1718	Western Crown Mortgage Acc		2207
M & G Mortgage Income Bond	20.7	4202	Western Farmers Mortgage S+J		2200B
M & G Mortgage Income Bond	15.8	4517	Western Home Life		1843
Midwest Western Managed	508A	587	Western Realty Co		4086
National Growth Managed	508B	587	Western Union		5086
NFA Mutual Indemn	1077	504	Western Union		5086
N & F Mortgage	174	504			508













## sport

CRICKET: Tourists disappointed with Worcestershire's tactics while defending champions Warwickshire continue to dominate.

# Reeve leads from the front

HENRY BLOFELD

reports from Hove  
Warwickshire 645-7 dec  
Sussex 136-5

Warwickshire are going to take some stopping again this year. They continued to sweep through Sussex like some cricketing tidal wave, and this second day was something of a personal triumph for their captain, Dermot Reeve, who played for Sussex from 1983-87.

Reeve is a most compelling cricketer. He is a captain who makes things happen, and there is great self-belief and no little skill in all that he does himself. It is said that England have not made more use of him, especially in one-day internationals.

He began the day by completing the seventh hundred of

his career, and by the time the declaration came, he had reached 168 in 230 balls, taking Warwickshire to the highest score made by either county in matches against each other.

By then, Reeve had clearly decided that it was going to be his day, and he elected to open the bowling in tandem with Shaun Pollock. Reeve batted in with that slightly idiosyncratic run-up from the Sea end, and in his third over James Hall pushed forward and Dominic Ostler picked up a quick, low catch at first slip.

It was then Pollock's turn. He knocked Martin Speight's stumps all over the place with a fast yorker, only to find that it was a no-ball. In Pollock's next over, Speight aimed to play to wide mid-on; the ball left him, took the outside edge and Reeve held a stinging catch to

his right at just above waist height at first slip.

There was no stopping Reeve, although he may have been a shade lucky to win an lbw decision against Alan Wells in his sixth over when Wells thrust a long way forward.

The first Reeve-less wicket fell in the last over before tea when Bill Athey, who had galloped to six in 27 overs, played forward to Graeme Welch and was caught at third slip.

In the last session, Neil Latham batted with composure under his yellow crash helmet, and Danny Law, a tall, bearded man, defended stoutly and pulled vigorously.

Even so, the 496 Sussex needed to save the follow-on was light years away, especially when Latham was caught behind down the legside sweeping.

Pollock was an object lesson for all fast bowlers. He had a lovely, smooth approach to the wicket, a classical action and follow-through, and he bowls from close to the stumps, which makes his bounce difficult to play. He hit both Athey and Law on their helmets. Pollock also bowls an excellent off-stump line.

Although Reeve took two wickets to Pollock's one in his opening spell, Pollock's influence will have contributed to his captain's success. A bowler of his ability is always going to have a big effect on the number of wickets which fall at the other end.

## Gooch collects more records

Round-up

Graham Gooch accumulated more records yesterday, some more significant than others. When four short of his century against Hampshire, the 121st of his career and his fifth in his last six innings against Hampshire, he became the 12th highest scorer in cricket history, overtaking Colin Cowdrey's 42,719.

After the home side batted on to reach 539, Essex reached 209 for 2 at the close with Gooch unbeaten on 121.

Somerset's Graham Rose followed up his six wickets in the first innings against Nottinghamshire with six more in the second innings at Taunton. The visitors' lead, with just one wicket remaining, is only 127.

Derbyshire's new captain, Dean Jones, helped steady his side at Sheffield. Replying to Yorkshire's 561, his side lost two quick wickets to Chris Silverwood but the Australian hit an unbeaten 52 as Derbyshire reached 128 for 3.

## Coach questions value of matches

DEREK HODGSON

reports from Worcester  
India 349-5 dec & 165  
Worcestershire 476-6 dec  
Match drawn

The future of matches between touring teams and the counties was put in doubt yesterday by a frank admission from Worcestershire's Zimbabwean coach, Dave Houghton. Worcestershire batted on into the last day of the three-day fixture, the declaration not coming until they had batted 117 overs, to India's 92 - a lead of five hours' play left. On this flat pitch, the match was dead.

The Indians made little complaint, but hinted that they were disappointed. Houghton responded: "We've lost four competitive matches and need to get into nick. My job is to win competitive matches. This is a practice match. They went into this match with two seamers and two leg-spinners. What sort of a target would they have set?"

The question was rhetorical, but with Thursday's double century, Graeme Hick, and the Australian, Tom Moody, available, in these conditions even Damon Hill might have been overtaken.

As it happened, two breaks for rain, losing 10 overs, would have upset the run-rate target sufficiently to have ruled out a result, but what will worry the TCCB, and the sponsors, Telly's, is that the counties are see-

ing the concept of "making a game of it" as faded as an Edwardian seaside postcard.

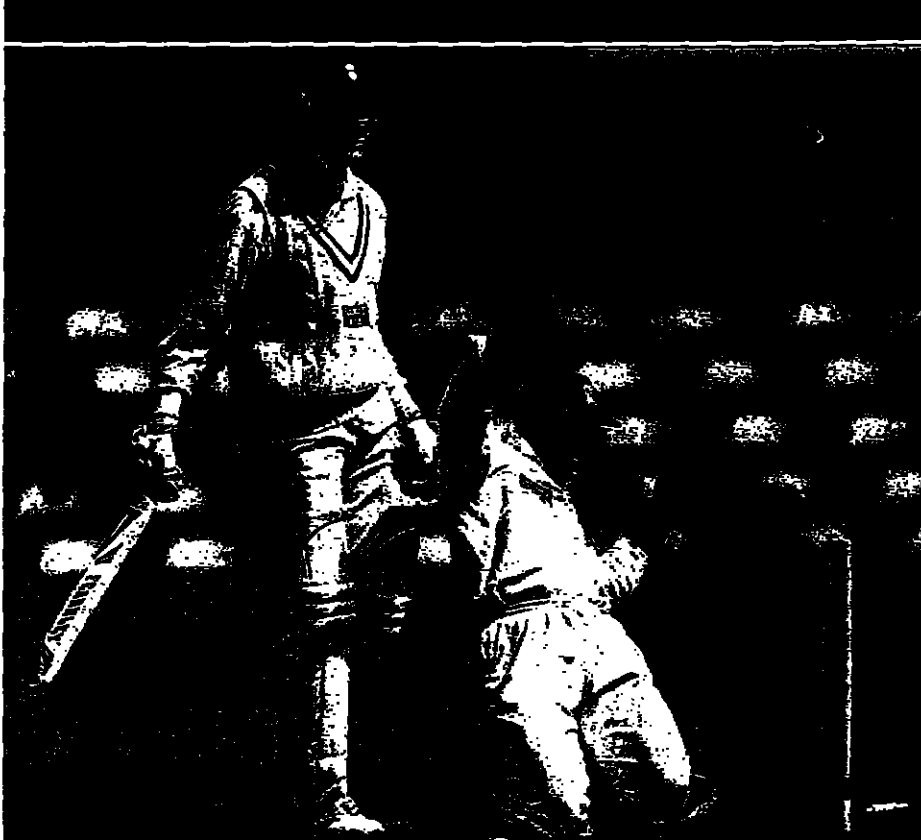
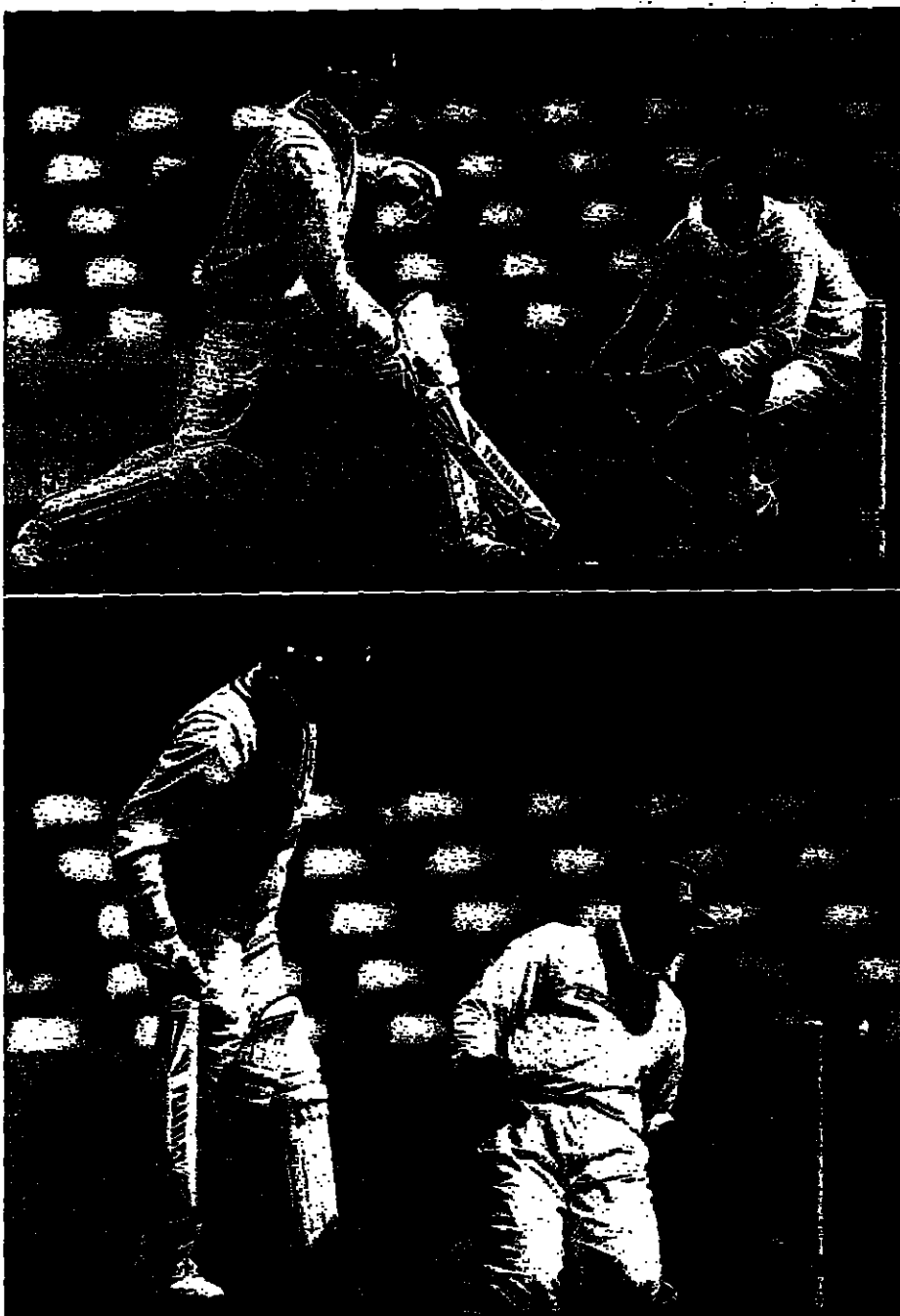
Today the Indians visit Gloucestershire, who will field a team without Courtney Walsh, their captain and overseas professional, and Jack Russell, their England wicketkeeper. Various sponsors have attempted to spice up the competition by offering money prizes. Had Worcestershire won, Tetley's would have added £7,500 to their players' pool, about half of Stan Collymore's reputed weekly wage. There is no need to mention peanuts and monkeys.

Counties no longer want to need matches against touring sides. Tourists need practice between international matches, as well as shorter tours and fewer fixtures for less wear and tear on the players. MCC, Minor Counties and British Universities would provide more challenging games.

Moody, the Worcestershire captain, did not bother to bat as his team, 91 ahead overnight, added 36 runs in 35 minutes, Steven Rhodes completing a half-century to boost his benefit season.

Ajay Jadeja and Vikram Rathore, India's experimental openers, then took the opportunity of assembling a stand of 146 against the county's journeyman seamers, Paul Thomas and Almagir Sheriyyar.

The faithful Stuart Lampitt eventually broke through by persuading Rathore, voted man of the match for his 165 and 72 in his first tour game, to pull to deep square leg.



Hampshire's Shaun Udall can only watch as his deflected shot off the bowling of Essex's Paul Grayson rolls back and hits the wicket. Photograph: David Ashdown

## Lewis proving an astute signing

DAVID LLEWELYN

reports from The Oval  
Kent 225  
Surrey 360

There can be few doubters left who do not believe that Chris Lewis was an astute signing by Surrey. He has served notice that his all-round skills have not deserted him as he helped haul his new county into the realms of respectability with his first half-century of the season.

If Lewis, who took two Kent wickets the day before, continues his current vein of form, there is no question that his international career will be resurrected.

He was positively messianic at the crease yesterday as he and Surrey's other all-round acquisition, Brendon Julian, coped with dodgy light and awkward Kent bowling.

Surrey were looking none too steady when the pair came together with six wickets down and 19 runs adrift of the Kent first innings.

But by the time Kent's pacy pacifier, Julian Thompson, was walking off to deserved applause at the close of play, having returned a career-best 5 for 72, Lewis and Julian had done their stuff.

They added 89 for the sev-

enth wicket before Lewis was caught - at the third attempt by Martin McCague off Carl Hooper's off-spin - having made a high-class 61 in just over an hour and a half, with a six and half a dozen fours included in the 92 balls he faced.

In that time, Lewis had mastered Kent's own beefy Big Mac McCague, who exploited the bouncy wicket to the full in 28 overs that were worthy of a lot more than the two wickets he ended up with.

Julian looks a great signing for the county. His innings of 74, which included a couple of big sixes and plenty of style and confidence all around the wicket, means that Surrey no longer have much of a tail, and what there is left of it will give a vigorous wag.

But while praise is due to Lewis and Julian, it took a superlative innings of quality from Mark Butcher to hold the Surrey innings together earlier in the day.

His fall, six runs short of what would have been a fourth first-class century, was cruel. He played over one of fuller length from the worthy doctor after more than four hours at the crease.

The chanceless knock by the left-handed opener marked him out for higher things later in the season.

## Hegg in high spirits after fourth century

MICHAEL AUSTIN

reports from Old Trafford  
Lancashire 495  
Leicestershire 98-5

Warren Hegg's winter months were spent as a barman. The drinks, probably not chocolate, were on him last night. The Lancashire wicketkeeper made a career best 134 before pouncing four dismissals as Leicestershire were out-foxed.

High spirits from Hegg were not an optical illusion because Lancashire look a buoyant force, prepared to mix the attritional bat-on-towards 500 with the flamboyant. Surely they will win something again this summer - maybe the championship title they last collected outright in 1934, a 62-year blot on Old Trafford's otherwise handsome landscape.

Last year, they finished fourth. Now without Wasim Akram, they have another worthy, South Africa's Steve Elworthy, whose dismissal of his opposing overseas player, Phil Simmons, leg-before pushing forward, enhanced their heart-warming, if body chilling day.

Hegg's fourth first-class

hundred improved on his previous highest of 130, scored as a night watchman at Northampton nine years ago. Freedom of strokeplay and calm authority accounted for 22 fours and a six from 199 balls.

Hegg, now 28 and a former England A tourist, arrived at 240 for 5 and his dismissal to a mis-timed, lofted drive was the penultimate one. Leicestershire had kept their cool and their thermal with the off-spinner Adrian Pierson deserving his four wickets, the innings extending into 161 laborious, wind-swept overs.

Peter Martin, like most quick bowlers, fancies his chances with the bat and supported Hegg with the ability that underlines Lancashire's depth of run-makers. As for Leicestershire, seeing Darren Maddy and Vince Wells open was an odd experience after all the years of Tim Boon and the now injured Nigel Briers. The vision was purely temporary because Wells was taken at the wicket, pushing, and Maddy succumbed to Watkinson's second ball, being expertly stumped. Watkinson proceeded to take three for 14 in 11 overs.

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# CRICKET SCOREBOARD

## Britannia Assurance County Championship

Second day of tour: 1.1.0 today

### Northamptonshire v Essex

Essex won toss

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Essex (4pts), with slight lead. First-tennings: Yorkshire standing, are 330 runs behind Lancashire (5).

**Northamptonshire** - First innings

Overnight: 381 for 6

1A N Ayres bow to South

1B M Garmston, 1 Collins & Williams - 113

2 S D Lloyd & Grayson

3 M Smith not out

4 S M Murnan not out

5 A Connor not out

6 Essex bats, 83.4, w, n28.1

Total (34.2 overs) 381

1A 14.02, 5.90, 9.50, 9.50

Score at 120 overs: 436 for 1

Bowling: 1st 37.8-11.3 Williams

2nd 36.0-1.0, 3rd 36.0-1.0, 4th 32.1-0.3

5th 36.0-1.0, 6th 36.0-1.0, 7th 32.1-0.3

8th 36.0-1.0, 9th 36.0-1.0, 10th 32.1-0.3

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Full (over): 623.7, 734.1, 838.0, 938.0, 1038.0, 1138.0, 1238.0, 1338.0, 1438.0, 1538.0, 1638.0, 1738.0, 1838.0, 1938.0, 2038.0, 2138.0, 2238.0, 2338.0, 2438.0, 2538.0, 2638.0, 2738.0, 2838.0, 2938.0, 3038.0, 3138.0, 3238.0, 3338.0, 3438.0, 3538.0, 3638.0, 3738.0, 3838.0, 3938.0, 4038.0, 4138.0, 4238.0, 4338.0, 4438.0, 4538.0, 4638.0, 4738.0, 4838.0, 4938.0, 5038.0, 5138.0, 5238.0, 5338.0, 5438.0, 5538.0, 5638.0, 5738.0, 5838.0, 5938.0, 6038.0, 6138.0, 6238.0, 6338.0, 6438.0, 6538.0, 6638.0, 6738.0, 6838.0, 6938.0, 7038.0, 7138.0, 7238.0, 7338.0, 7438.0, 7538.0, 7638.0, 7738.0, 7838.0, 7938.0, 8038.0, 8138.0, 8238.0, 8338.0, 8438.0, 8538.0, 8638.0, 8738.0, 8838.0, 8938.0, 9038.0, 9138.0, 9238.0, 9338.0, 9438.0, 9538.0, 9638.0, 9738.0, 9838.0, 9938.0, 10038.0, 10138.0, 10238.0, 10338.0, 10438.0, 10538.0, 10638.0, 10738.0, 10838.0, 10938.0, 11038.0, 11138.0, 11238.0, 11338.0, 11438.0, 11538.0, 11638.0, 11738.0, 11838.0, 11938.0, 12038.0, 12138.0, 12238.0, 12338.0, 12438.0, 12538.0, 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*Even Raud Gullit, a Dutchman who speaks better English than most of the primary school children in the London borough of Islington, looked lost during the speeches.*

*The player who has made more capital out of the language gap than anyone else in the game, however, was the evening's guest of honour, Eric Cantona, the only man in the room not wearing a tie, set in the middle of the top table, his head glistening after an altercation with Vinnie Jones's barber. Around the tables there was much speculation about his acceptance speech. Would it have been scripted by the copy-writers at the club? Would he dare to continue the nautical theme of his last public utterance? Would Lemnart Johansson retort any of the gags?*



We were to find out after the presentation of the award, a gong few could gainsay after his contribution to English football this season. Actually, several of the gathering did

gainsay it. Brian Woolnough, of *The Sun*, who has fumed in print against his colleagues for giving their prize to a man he appears to believe is the spawn of Satan, remained in his chair throughout a warm standing ovation, arms folded, mouth set in a scornful, gesture which it seems unlikely the recipient of his diatribe noticed.

When the speech came it was a bit like Bolton Wanderers' Premiership challenge: over very quickly. This is it in full: "Critics say some things. I throw them where they deserve, down the toilet. When people say nice things, I thank them. I wish good health to everyone in the world. That is all I have to say."

And this is where the confusion set in: it was unclear whether he said

“money” or “morning”. As soon as he had finished, huddles formed to swap earnest textual analysis. If he had said “money” then this was simply a title generalisation. But had he said “morning” then this lent the speech all sorts of Blakeian texture. The observers (though probably not Wordsworth) took *him* the benefit of the doubt and opted for the latter interpretation: after all, why betray the image we love to believe in of the French footballing philosopher, the import who contrasts so vividly with our own dear Vinnie?

As this was Europe Day, there had obviously been some Franco-Celtic man talk; consequently, the French and Celtic fans had taken some advice from Jürgen Klinsmann. Last year, after Klinsmann scooped the

award, he was faced with a queue the length of the Mersey Tunnel of supine, pitiful, salivating backs seeking his autograph. For over an hour he scribbled away until, by the time I got to the front of the queue, he looked dead-eyed with exhaustion.

None of that for Eric. He left the room immediately after receiving his gong, accompanied, as always, by his minder, Alex Ferguson, the two of them leaving as the after-dinner speaker, Bob "The Cat" Bevan, rose to his feet.

"I'm surprised they've gone just as I'm about to speak," Bevan said. "I thought some Eric and Alex didn't realise I was up here. Serves me right for wearing grey."

Mind you, I'm not sure Lennart Johansson got the joke.

Wills, 23, who regained the tour card he lost after the 1994 season at the qualifying school, missed three times from inside three feet to emphasise the unpredictability of the greens, despite the fact he was playing in the first group of the day.

**Pole vault: David McPherson, riding Flip, clears the second last in the Accumulator at the Royal Windsor Horse Show yesterday**

Photograph: Peter Jay

**ROYAL WINDSOR HORSE SHOW**  
Ladies' Championship: 1 Gringo (E-Mac) clear, 53.51sec; 2 Waysider (L Murphy) 1.5 faults, 61.66; 3 Abberva Dream (D Lampard) 4 faults, 45.09. Ac-

30pts, 45.013pts; 2 Harrier (N) winners 38.38, 45.54; 3 Quick Star (N Shelton) 36.45.57. Harrods International Driving Grand Prix (standings after dressage): Horse Teams: 1 G Bowman, 41.0 penalties; 2 P Thomas, 51.0; 3 R Margrave, 51.7. Pony teams: 1 G Frith, 42.7; 2 P Gammell, 50.0; 3 Duke of Edinburgh 59.7. Hennes Dressage Grand Prix: Infant (V Thompson) 66.67%; 2 Mester Mouse (J Jackson) 65.53%; 3 Diklo (H Menham) 63.93%.

event to close the meeting. Niger

[illegible]

**SECOND DIVISION**  
**Bradford City v Black**

**Crows v Notts County**.....  
**THIRD DIVISION**  
**Colchester v Plymouth**.....  
**Hereford v Darlington**.....  
**BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE**  
**PROMOTION PLAY-OFF FIRST-LEG**  
**Partick Thistle v Dundee Utd**.....

**FA CARLSBERG VASE FINAL**  
Brigg Town v Citterhoe (at Wembley Stadium)

**CARLSBERG PUB CUP Final:** Grimethorpe Miners' Welfare v Dawlish Town Social Club (12.50) (at Wembley Stadium).

**LEAGUE OF WALES League Cup Final:** Ebbw Vale v Connah's Quay Nomads (at the Recre-

**Rugby League**  
3.0 unless stated

**STONES SUPER LEAGUE:** Castleford v Workington Town (5.30); St Helens v London Broncos (6.0); Warrington v Sheffield Eagles. First Division: Dewsbury v Whitehaven; Hull v Salford (3.15); Keighley Cougars v Featherstone Rovers (3.30); Wakefield Trinity v Rochdale Hornets (3.30); Wintour v Huddersfield. Second Division:

**Hockey**  
WOMEN'S CLUB MATCH: Slough v Ipswich

**Speedway**  
**PREMIER LEAGUE:** Scottish Monarchs v Middlesbrough (6.30) (at Glasgow).  
**CONFERENCE LEAGUE:** Eastbourne v Str-

**Other sports**

**CYCLING:** Tour of the Marshes (Kent).  
**EQUESTRIANISM:** Windsor Horse show.  
**GOLF:** England v France (Sunningdale); Scottish PGA Championship (Dalmeny).  
**MOTORCYCLING:** British Superbike Championships: Seventh and eighth rounds (Snetterton).

**MOTOR RACING:** Kodak British Empire Trophy (Silverstone).  
**TENNIS:** LTA Spring Satellite (Lee-on-Solent).

■ Before that I was like a child, sort of waiting to do the next stupid thing. But what I have learned is not to make the same mistake twice. Eric Cantona on his kung-fu kick and the community service sentence it earned him.

Will I be strengthening my squad? Well, put it this way. Manchester United have just won the League again and they will be strengthening their side **Ron Atkinson**, Coventry City manager.

■ They could have taken the mickey out of us when they were 52-0 ahead – but they didn't. **Jon Gallard**, of Bath, reflects on the union side's

■ I still think I have got another two or three left in me. As long as I still have the buzz for the big tournaments, I will carry

■ I can't believe it. Nothing surprises me in foot-

ball but I certainly didn't see this one coming, that's for sure. **Barry Fry** after being sacked as manager of Birmingham.

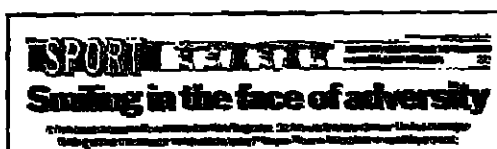
16

introduced Jonathan Martin, head of





## FA CUP FINAL: Liverpool v Manchester United



When Alex Ferguson spoke to **Glenn Moore** before the start of the season (left), he remained confident despite enduring a turbulent summer. The two talked again this week, with the Manchester United manager entitled to a certain sense of vindication

## Success tempers Ferguson's famous fury

There were 23 microphones and tape recorders under his nose, a dozen photographers firing flash guns at his feet, two score reporters and six TV crews in front of his face. You could almost see Alex Ferguson thinking: "It's a long way from 'Smiling in the face of adversity'." Later, when the maddening crowd had departed with their soundbites and quotes, Ferguson admitted: "I do think that sometimes. The most daunting time was when I was managing Scotland in the Mexico World Cup. I went into this big room and it was just packed with media: there were so many of them, it was unbelievable. I've been immune to it ever since."

**'You can look back at records but for me the next one is important. Success is a fleeting thing'**

manager. Greatness has been conferred upon him in some quarters since Manchester United's title triumph on Sunday and, though challenges remain, it will not be too generous an assessment if United defeat Liverpool today to secure an unparalleled second double.

That the season is ending in glory is even more impressive when one recalls that it began in turmoil. Wednesday was not just a long way from East Stirling, it was a long way from August.

It is difficult to remember now but, back then, Ferguson was under pressure. Mark Hughes, Andrei Kanchelskis and, bafflingly, Paul Ince had been sold and no one bought. Even supporters' groups were wondering if he had lost the plot. Only one man seemed to believe it was all under control: Ferguson himself.

On opening day's eve, a relaxed and confident Ferguson told *The Independent*: "Just because three players have left, the tabloids have made it an end-of-the-world situation. I do not feel threatened. Why should I? People say I should have bought a player, but it is very difficult to get



Reasons to be cheerful: Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, is in a relaxed frame of mind as he contemplates a second double

Photograph: Allsport

one who can get in our team." The following day, a youthful United side conceded three goals to Aston Villa in the opening 45 minutes at Villa Park and, one wondered, is it really impossible to strengthen this team? As Gary Neville said this week: "I don't think any other manager would have put the faith in the young players he has done."

Ten months on and Ferguson's faith in youth has been vindicated, along with his trust in experience. He had also said that day at The Cliff: "I expect great things from my good players: [Gary] Pallister, [Peter] Schmeichel, [Roy] Keane. That is the backbone of my side. I hope [Ryan] Giggs emerges to be the great player I know he is going to be. These are important players. If we are

going to win the League, we need them all performing. Apart from Pallister, who has played well but too rarely, they have not let him down. Schmeichel and Keane have been the foundations on which Giggs, with Eric Cantona, have engineered the championship success."

"Schmeichel has had his best-ever season," Ferguson said this week. "He has produced his saves when it really mattered. It is easy to make saves at 4-0 up, he has made saves at important times, at 0-0, or 1-0. Even at Bolton [where United won 6-0] he made two great saves before we had scored."

"Keane is one of the best players in Britain. I would not swap him for anyone. He has a great football brain, can run all day and never gives

the ball away. Giggs has been terrific. He has been injury free and matured into a lovely player."

Looking back at that interview, there is just one discordant note. Ferguson also "expected great things from Andy Cole". But that is balanced by David Beckham's emergence for, in August, Ferguson admitted the one area he was seeking to strengthen was on the right-wing. He may still be looking but Beckham has filled in more than adequately.

"I think Beckham can be a wide-right player of a different type," Ferguson said. "He has good running power and can cross the ball well. Obviously he doesn't have Kanchelskis' pace and that is something we have missed but he gives us other things."

Ferguson will be looking at

potential signings during the European Championship. As ever, he is already planning ahead. "You can look back at records but for me the next one is important. Success is a fleeting thing, a brief moment when the referee's whistle goes. Then it is on to the next one."

Thus, on Monday morning he was back at his desk at 9.30 speaking, with barely disguised relish, of the need to bring the players in for training that day to "run out of their legs what they put into them last night". For Ferguson himself it was just "a couple of glasses of champagne" though, in the wake of Sunday's triumph on Tuesday, he did put out scheduled conversation back a couple of hours - he is normally in by eight.

He was in chipper mood, as he has

been all week. His team have been equally upbeat; all but Cantona and Cole mixing happily with the press on Wednesday. The contrast with this corresponding week last season has been marked, an indication that, while success may be fleeting, failure has a unhappy longevity.

"Winning the championship will make preparation much easier," Ferguson admitted. "Whatever team I play I think they will enjoy it and be confident. Last year we were flat after losing the League. The dressing room right after the game at West Ham last season was terrible. The directors and myself were patting their heads and trying to lift them, because we knew we had the final coming up, but there was nothing we could do. Come the middle of the week I

thought they were all right but, when I saw them perform, I knew it had bitten them too deep. It's a major difference this year. I'm not being over-confident, but Roy Evans will know what I'm talking about."

Ferguson often talks about his team in paternal terms. This is not unusual among football managers but at least Ferguson, at 54, is of an age where it sounds appropriate. To the younger players especially he is, Phil Neville said, "a father figure".

These days he is a protective parent rather than the intimidating one of the past. Football managers are often noted for their tempers but Ferguson's is legendary even by the standards of the genre. He once exploded in the Aberdeen dressing room, kicking the laundry basket as he did so. A pair of underpants landed on the head of the player next to the one he was laying into. The

adorned player was too scared to move and sat rigid until Ferguson, spotting him, berated the unfortunate for wearing them. "Getting on the wrong side of his temper is not the best thing you can do," said Lee Sharpe, with a hint of knowing understatement.

While that temper is still there - and can be turned on with alarming speed - it is less frequently seen these days. "He's calmed down," Sharpe added. Brian McClair, one of Ferguson's first signings, said: "I don't think you'd ever say he was relaxed, but he's mellowed. That's his age, his experience"

thought they were all right but, when I saw them perform, I knew it had bitten them too deep. It's a major difference this year. I'm not being over-confident, but Roy Evans will know what I'm talking about."

Ferguson often talks about his team in paternal terms. This is not unusual among football managers but at least Ferguson, at 54, is of an age where it sounds appropriate. To the younger players especially he is, Phil Neville said, "a father figure".

These days he is a protective parent rather than the intimidating one of the past. Football managers are often noted for their tempers but Ferguson's is legendary even by the standards of the genre. He once exploded in the Aberdeen dressing room, kicking the laundry basket as he did so. A pair of underpants landed on the head of the player next to the one he was laying into. The

adorned player was too scared to move and sat rigid until Ferguson, spotting him, berated the unfortunate for wearing them. "Getting on the wrong side of his temper is not the best thing you can do," said Lee Sharpe, with a hint of knowing understatement.

**'I don't think you'd ever say he was relaxed, but he's mellowed. That's his age, his experience'**

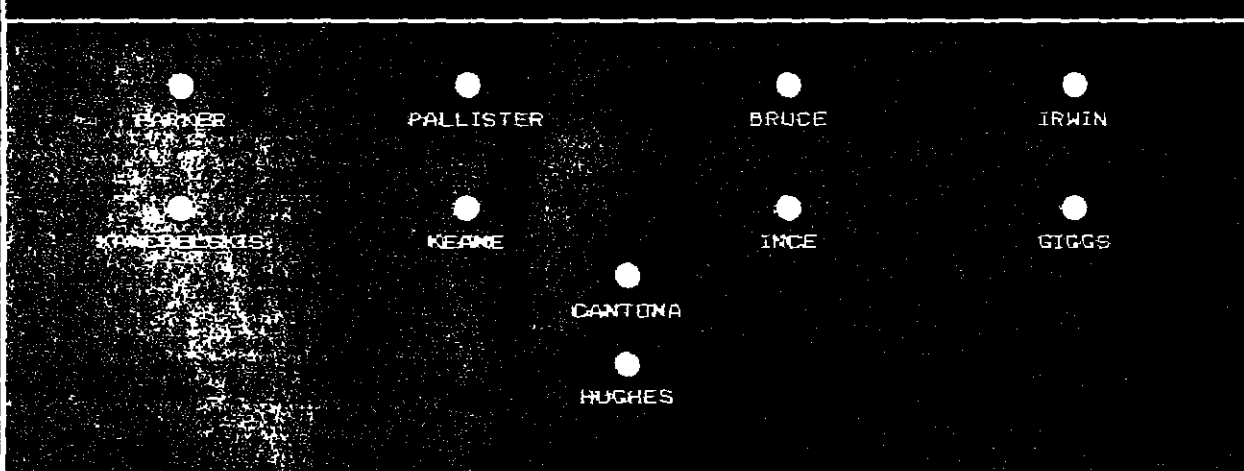
adorned player was too scared to move and sat rigid until Ferguson, spotting him, berated the unfortunate for wearing them. "Getting on the wrong side of his temper is not the best thing you can do," said Lee Sharpe, with a hint of knowing understatement.

While that temper is still there - and can be turned on with alarming speed - it is less frequently seen these days. "He's calmed down," Sharpe added. Brian McClair, one of Ferguson's first signings, said: "I don't think you'd ever say he was relaxed, but he's mellowed. That's his age, his experience, his achievements."

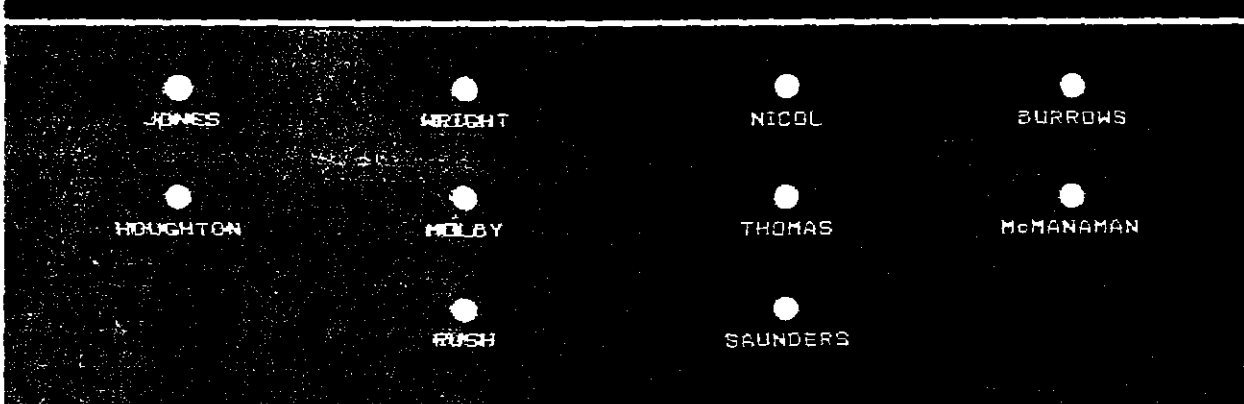
Whatever today's result, only the Champions' League remains absent from Ferguson's roster of success. "I think we need a couple of players," he said. "It is a big challenge. I think if we can improve tactically and get proper preparation we will be all right."

"His great strength is his single-mindedness," McClair added. "His ability to make decisions and stick to them. He's got real self-belief that what he's doing is right. His record suggests he usually is."

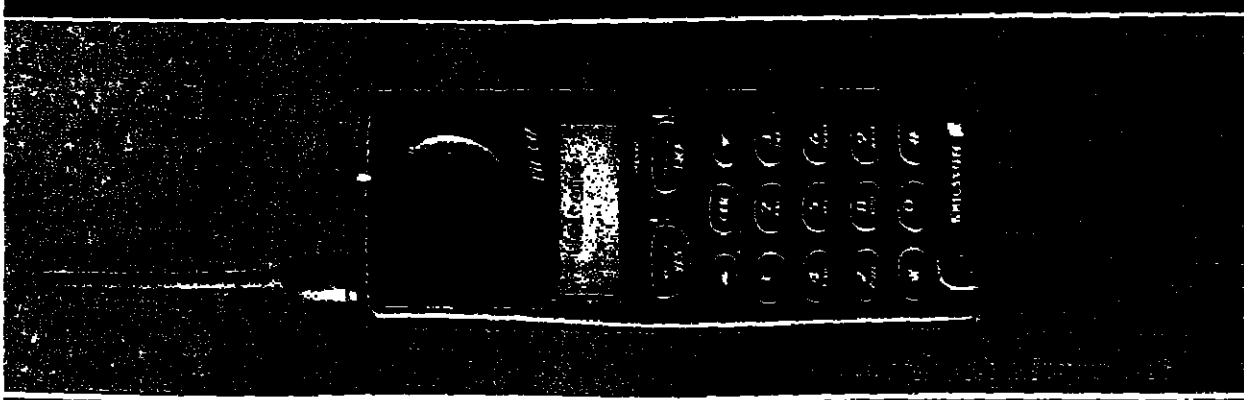
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## FOUR FOUR TWO



## ONE TWO ONE



## ONE ONE

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## Maturing Fowler in a rush to achieve more goals



The scene outside Liverpool's training ground, Melwood, was not unusual in that there was a group of people wanting to meet Robbie Fowler. Their purpose? "We've come to present him with a trophy," one said to a sceptical security man. With exaggerated weariness, he noted a name and shut the door.

Getting hold of Fowler is almost an industry in Liverpool. "We hear all sorts of stories," another club employee explained later.

"You know what they're like round here. They'll try anything on. Robbie must have around a thousand cousins and a hundred brothers and sisters."

As it happened, the callers this time were genuine and proudly had their photographs taken with their old boy. The trophy was for player of the year, circa 1990, for a boys' team that had also included Everton's Tony Grant.

"Funny thing is, we all thought Tony would be the one," a man from the presentation party said. "He's doing fine, he's a good player, but Robbie's unbelievable."

It is something Premiership defenders would reluctantly agree with. For years their battered senses could take comfort that Ian Rush might still be deadly but at least he was getting old. No one could be as good as Rushie, surely? Then Fowler came along, suggesting he might even be better.

Rush, himself, noted it straight away. "He was 14 or 15," he said, "but the first time he got the ball he turned and made space for himself. That's a skill only a natural striker has."

Since scoring on his debut at Fulham in September 1993, this instinct has yielded 85 goals in less than three seasons. He has also been voted Young Player of the Year twice by his fellow professionals and capped by England. On top of that, if he strikes against Manchester United today at Wembley, he will become the first player to score in every round of the FA

**Guy Hodgson on the young Anfield striker whose progress has astounded**



Fowler: Cause for celebration Photograph: Bradley Ormesher

Cup since Peter Osgood in 1970.

Bandwagons are to be avoided, but Fowler has had so many luminaries in the game singing his praises. With this one, you either get on or risk being run over.

"He's the closest thing to Jimmy Greaves I've seen," Denis Law, the former Manchester United and Scotland striker, said. "Possibly braver. There are many players who get the ball in the area and you don't fear any danger. He gets it and you think 'that's going in'."

His second goal, a looping shot from 20 yards, in last month's semi-final against Aston Villa, had Law purring. "A lot of players would have lashed at it but he almost

lobbed his shot and gave the goalkeeper no chance at all. That takes a lot of skill and even more confidence."

Roger Hunt, a member of the Liverpool dynasty of strikers, is equally effusive. "His reputation has meant he was bound to get more attention from defenders and be more closely marked. The fact that he's still getting goals in the face of that shows how good he is. His rate of scoring is terrific."

Strangely, his most productive season so far - 36 goals - began with Fowler. 21, seemingly at odds with his renown and his manager, Roy Evans. The signing of the £8m Stan Collymore and the continued excellence of Rush meant he was substitute for the first two

of Liverpool's matches and had Collymore not been injured against Leeds, his partial banishment might have continued.

The moments of indiscretion that included a £1,000 fine from the FA and a severe admonishment from the club for an indiscreet interview in the magazine *Loaded* seemed to be coming thicker and faster.

When he turned up at Melwood with a black eye administered by his team-mate, Neil Ruddock, a talent seemed to be heading for self-destruction. Thankfully, he has avoided pressing the button.

"I needed to grow up," Fowler conceded, "and I have done. It hurt like hell when I was left out at the start of the season but I kept my mouth shut and never said a word of complaint to the boss. I knew I'd get the chance, and when I did I did well. I've never lacked confidence in myself."

"If I ever got flash, my dad would soon put me down. He's watched every game I've played since I was 11 and he knows when to put me in place. Anyway, I'm not big-headed in the least. I like to think I'm the same Robbie Fowler now who joined Liverpool as a kid."

The same Fowler who has put four goals past Manchester United this season - Rush needed a decade to get his first against them - and who has struck at such a prolific rate that Collymore has had to adapt to become part provider for his younger partner.

United, certainly, are wary. "He has a lot of attributes," Brian McClair, who played against him at Anfield this season, said. "He scores goals with his left foot, right foot, headers. One of his best attributes is his movement. He's very intelligent and very quick. I wouldn't like to mark him."

Fortunately for McClair he is unlikely to have to. That will fall to either David May or Steve Bruce, and their success or otherwise in keeping Fowler quiet will have a great bearing on where the FA Cup goes today.

That is one trophy he will not want to wait six years to get his hands on.

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Final preparations: The pitch at Wembley Stadium gets a last-minute trim before today's match between Liverpool and Manchester United

Photograph: Robert Hallam

# Liverpool midfield holds key

GLENN MOORE  
Football Correspondent

When they took their seats at Thursday night's Footballer of the Year dinner, Roy Evans and Alex Ferguson, today's FA Cup final managers, each found in front of them a set of Chinese "healthy balls". A gift from Sky, they are supposed to be rotated in the hands to beat stress.

This morning, as the pair pack their bags for Wembley, they may feel tempted to take the balls with them. It could be a very stressful day.

The only thing that can be predicted with any degree of certainty about today's final between Liverpool and Manchester United is that it will be tight. Even the bookmakers cannot decide the more likely winner.

Manchester United ought to be favourites. They are the league champions and are appearing in their third successive final. But Liverpool have twice mastered them this year, gaining the better of a draw at Old Trafford and defeating them comprehensively at Anfield.

This is the opposite of how things used to be. When Ferguson arrived at Old Trafford nearly 10 years ago Liverpool were the champions and United usually beat them.

"We were never afraid," recalled Ferguson. "We were the one team they knew would try and beat them and it used to unsettle them. The big motivation for United was that Liverpool were the dominant team in English football, so beating them was the most important thing of all."

"Now it is reversed. We go there and the volume of support against us is incredible. The way they celebrated when they beat

us, you would think it was VE Day. But that is the position I wanted this club to be in - that we go over there and they are desperate to beat us."

The last point does not quite square with Ferguson's now customary reaction when teams, be it Liverpool, Leeds or West Ham, lift themselves against United, but it is probably a more accurate reflection of his true feelings.

Today's game promises to be the best final for at least five years - since Tottenham beat Nottingham Forest and Gazza crooked his knee. Both sides are attractive to watch and have a clutch of exceptionally gifted attacking players. A match-winner? Take your pick from Robbie Fowler, Stan Collymore and Steve McManaman or Eric Cantona, Ryan Giggs and Andy Cole - if he plays?

Cole is just one of several dilemmas for Ferguson. He scored with his first touch at

Middlesbrough but Paul Scholes has looked sharper all season. Then there is his warhorse, Steve Bruce, who pulled up lame in last year's final - does he risk him again, or pick David May, outstanding in the last two matches? Which Neville, Phil or Gary? And David Beckham - or Lee Sharpe?

While Ferguson will not name his team until 2pm today, Evans announced his yesterday. There were no surprises, Phil Babb and Jamie Redknapp being preferred to Neil Ruddock and Michael Thomas.

Ferguson is also trying to plot the best way to defeat a Liverpool playing style which has given United problems. These have come when Liverpool have the ball, Ferguson said. "We are alright when we have it". The difficulty, as several sides have found, is getting the ball. "It is the number of players they have in midfield when

the full-backs push on. We will need to work hard to get into these players earlier." A busy afternoon, then, for Roy Keane and Nicky Butt. Their impact on the passing of Redknapp and John Barnes may be just as important as the forwards' finishing.

Then there is Ian Rush, the cup's leading scorer, who will probably be playing his last game for Liverpool. Last time he was on the bench for this tie he came off it to score twice as Liverpool beat Everton in 1989. "If I get on for long enough I'm sure I'll score against them," he said yesterday.

Naturally both sides are looking for omens. While Liverpool are staying in the same hotel as they did when winning in 1992 - United have opted for the "lucky suit", choosing the same designer, Cecil Gee, as in 1994. Liverpool are dressed by Armani. Liverpool have not beaten United in seven cup matches

since 1921, including the 1977 final.

All this is, of course, stuff and nonsense. At 3pm today it will come down to the individuals and nothing else. "There is obviously a gap because that is what the league table says," Evans said. "I think on our day we are as good as anybody but, while our players have matured individually, perhaps they have not quite matured as a team."

Evans, who was one of Graeme Souness's assistants in 1992, added: "All I can remember is actually winning it. On the day nothing else really matters."

It is important that someone wins it. A Thursday replay would so hamper Terry Venables he tried to persuade the FA to have penalties today. In 1977 it was settled by Jimmy Greenhoff's chest. As far as Venables is concerned, today's winner can come off the referee's backside as long as there is one.

## In Monday's 20-page sports section

### Gooch looks to the future



"I'll be looking for players with character. There is no better place for judging that than from 22 yards, where you can see what's going on in a bowler's head by looking into his eyes."

As he winds down a distinguished career, **Graham Gooch** (above) talks to **Derek Pringle** about his latest challenge as a Test selector and what life might hold should he decide to retire at the end of the season.

### Down Wembley Way...

**Glenn Moore** and **Ken Jones** give their verdict on today's FA Cup final and **Mike Rowbottom** on another attraction at Wembley's this weekend - tomorrow's Pub Cup final

### ...and around the world

Thanks to television, the FA Cup final is a truly global event. How did the rest of the world watch Liverpool against Manchester United?

### Plus

Extensive coverage of all the major sporting action  
Sports betting  
Book of the week  
...and **Greg Wood** has The Final Word

## In tomorrow's Independent on Sunday



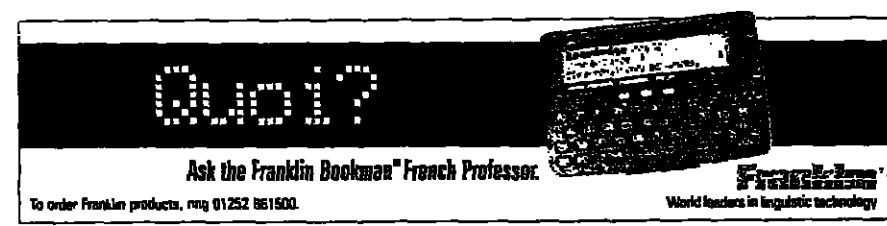
"Though many more do not, some players take instantly to the international stage, overcoming the nerves, tuning in to the pace, daring to attempt things with the ball, just looking like they belong. **Darren Anderton** is some player... One can almost feel the objections up North; more special treatment for another Spurs player in the Venables regime. It is to ignore, though, that **Alex Ferguson** has tried to buy him for Manchester United and, more important, that he is a player with a wide range of attacking skills, his versatility making him an attractive prospect for a major championship campaign."

**Ian Ridley** spotlights the Tottenham player's timely return to the international stage

### Plus

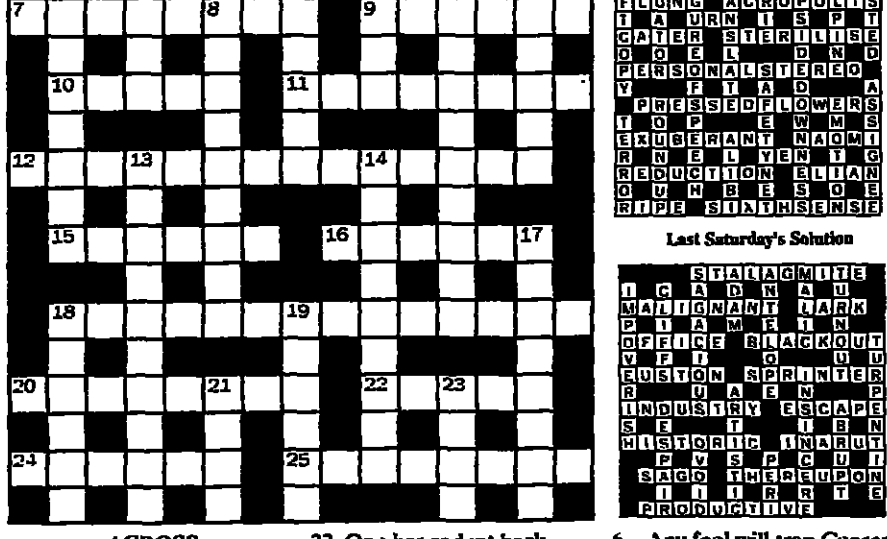
**Ian Ridley**, **Stan Hey** and **Norman Fox** at the FA Cup final  
**Simon O'Hagan** on Surrey's **Alistair Brown** and the new cricketing art of the pinch hitter  
**Andrew Baker** on the remarkable recovery from illness of a leading British squash player

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- ACROSS**
- Head of conspiracy to go down - man getting confined (8)
  - One chancing one's arm about love - that's foolishness (6)
  - Religious text is etched in tree (5)
  - It never collapsed and died when turned over (8)
  - Experts with canvas prepare the sail for a storm (3-11)
  - Steam-train promoter (6)
  - Legislator in Ireland building power base? (6)
  - NEW presented as WEN in part of test? (5-5-4)
  - Bell-ringer getting nervous response, according to the sound (8)
- DOWN**
- One has rodent back bones (5)
  - The way a foot support is pulled tight? (6)
  - Teaching physical education had excited leader of youth (8)
  - It's nonsense to applaud upcoming role (8)
  - Continent - it's to the North, I initially assumed (4)
  - Woman, fashionable, dropped in middle of Medway (6)
  - King that is against city (4)
  - Gilbert, say, unpleasantly bitter in inclination (10)

THE FRANKLIN SCRAMBLE Make the longest word you can from DIFFERENT Yesterday's Scramble: DARTBOARD

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The first correct solution to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday win a Franklin Bookman French Professor worth £100. Answers and the winner's name will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winner was Margaret Rowley of Comber, Co. Down.

## LIVERPOOL

JAMES	WRIGHT	BABB
SCALES		
MCATEER	REDKNAPP	BARNES
		R. JONES
		McMANAMAN
	COLLYMORE	
	FOWLER	
	COLE	
	CANTONA	
GIGGS	BUTT	KEANE
		BECKHAM
P NEVILLE	PALLISTER	MAY
		IRWIN
	SCHMEICHEL	

## MANCHESTER UTD

## SFA probes Stubbs deal

ALAN NIXON

Celtic yesterday unveiled Alan Stubbs as their centre-half of the future, but his £3.5m move from Bolton was almost immediately placed in doubt when the Scottish Football Association announced there would be an investigation into the deal because of the involvement of unlicensed agents.

The problem may arise because of the involvement of Neil and Ian Rioch - brothers of the Arsenal manager, Bruce. They have yet to pay the £100,000 bond to gain a licence to handle transfers. That has caused a storm in the agent's community, many of whom are upset to have paid the cash while others have not.

A complaint was lodged with the SFA, which immediately started a full investigation on behalf of Fifa. If Celtic or Stubbs

are found guilty, the penalties could be severe. The maximum fine for a player is £30,000 with a possible year's suspension while the club can be banned from all competitions for a season.

Neil Rioch claimed last night that no wrong-doing had occurred and hoped to be cleared by the inquiry. He said: "I think we are OK. We are licensed under Phil Morrison [a licensed agent] and we would not have done it otherwise or jeopardised Alan's future."

However, the international agents' organisation, Iafa, is lobbying for an example to be made of a big club and a top player. Clare Tomlinson, of the Football Association, said yesterday: "The Riochs are not licensed. There was an application a year ago, but they never followed it up."

Bruce Rioch has been trailing Stubbs for most of the season and is thought to be

frustrated at Arsenal's inability to make the signing. However, from the club's point of view, the alleged involvement of the manager's brothers in the transfer, and subsequent investigation, might be a cause of substantial embarrassment.

Stubbs is thought to have favoured a move to Arsenal, and even when he headed to Glasgow on Tuesday there was time for Arsenal to rescue the move, but key figures were abroad and Rioch learned Stubbs had chosen Celtic too late to prevent it.

Following the George Graham affair, Arsenal have opted to greatly reduce their manager's role in transfers, with David Dein, the vice-chairman, taking an active role. Rioch has found this frustrating, and while his contract remains unsigned an air of doubt will continue to hover over north London.

Francis for the Blues, page 27  
Euro 96 ticket probe, page 3

## Routes to the final

<b>LIVERPOOL</b>	
3rd bt Rochdale (h) 7-0	Scores: Collymore 3, Fowler, Rush, McAttee, Og
4rd bt Shrewsbury (a) 4-0	Scores: Collymore, Fowler, McAttee, Og
5rd bt Charlton (h) 2-1	Scores: Collymore, Fowler
6rd bt Leeds (h)* 3-0	Scores: McManaman 2, Fowler
* Replay after 0-0 at Elland Road	
SF bt Aston Villa 3-0	Scores: Fowler 2, McAttee at Old Trafford
<b>MANCHESTER UNITED</b>	
3rd v Sunderland (a)* 2-1	Scores: Cole, Scholes
* Replay after 2-2 at Old Trafford	(scores: Carreras, Butt)
4rd bt Reading (a) 3-0	Scores: Carreras, Giggs, Parker
5rd bt Man City (h) 2-1	Scores: Carreras (pen), Shearer
6rd bt Southampton (h) 2-0	Scores: Carreras, Shearer
SF bt Chelsea 2-1	Scores: Cole, Beckham at Villa Park

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